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HOME & DECOR

SINGAPORE

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daring designs

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A shipping container in the home

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Clash patterned fabrics

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Make a design statement with your ceiling fan

Property

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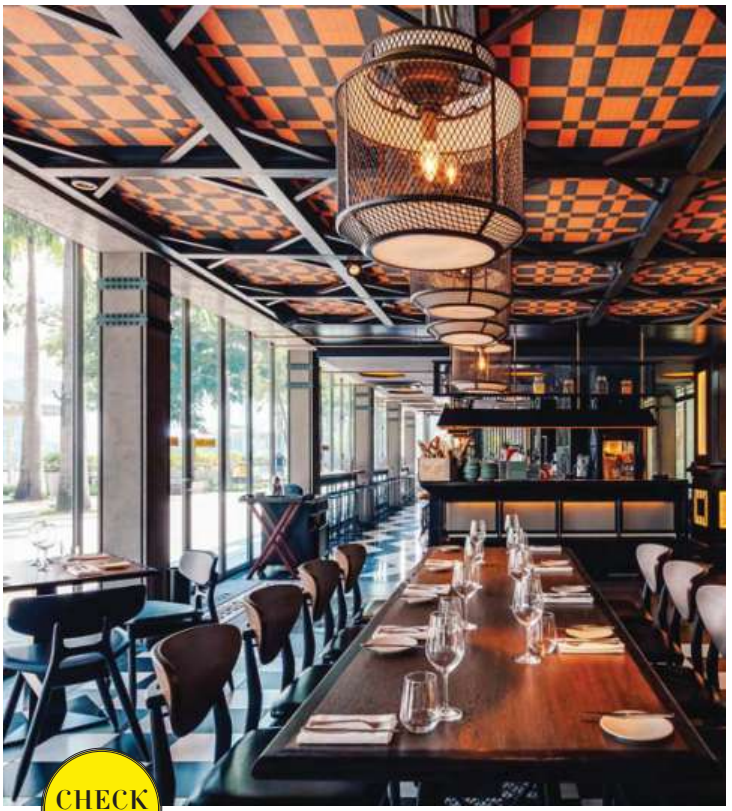
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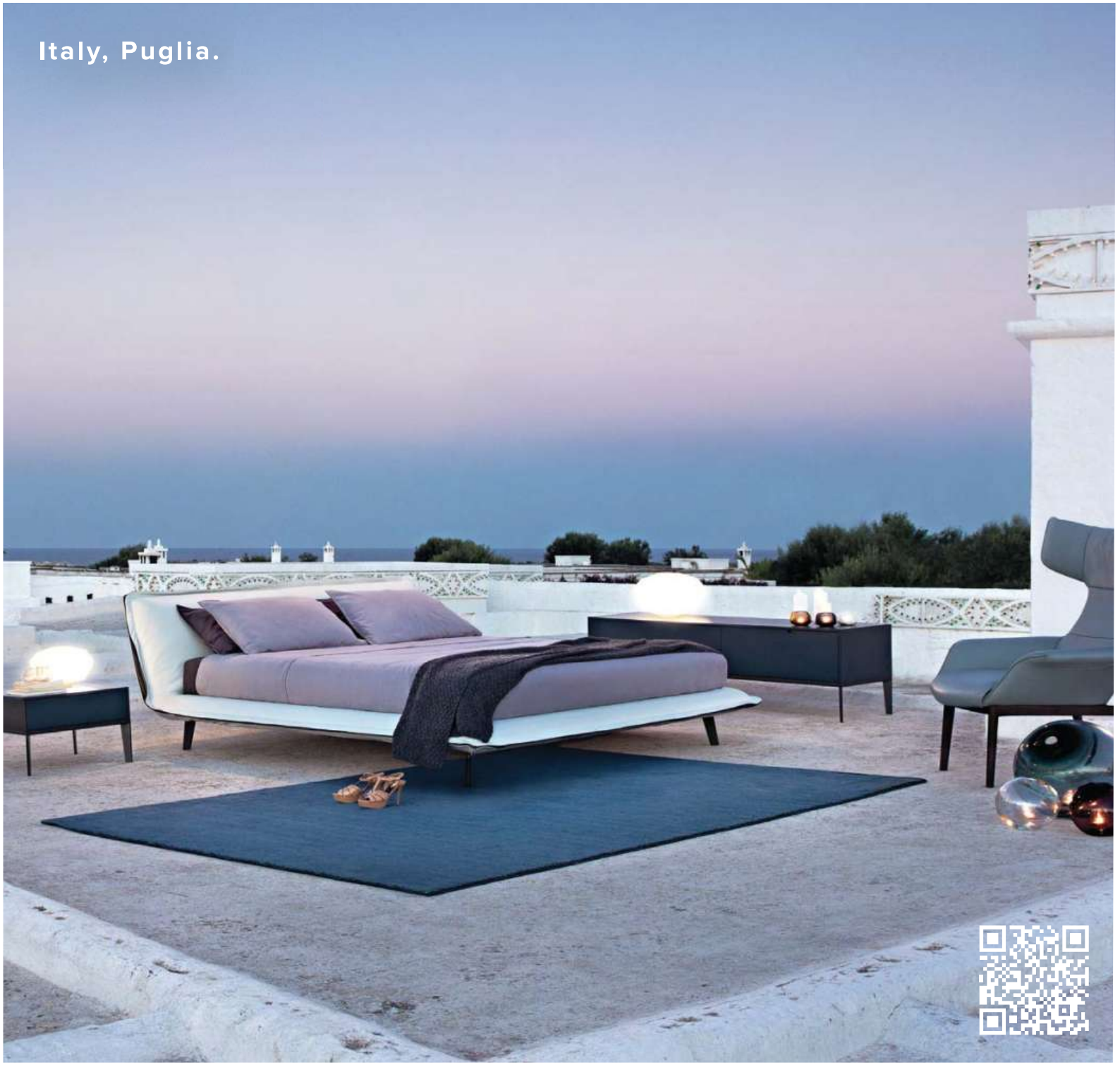
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TOTO



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HOMES



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photography TAN WEI TE art direction DON TAN
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WIN SANCAL FURNITURE FROM DREAM WORTH $15,000!

DIGITAL EDITION EXCLUSIVE

COLOUR COORDINATES
Use these furnishings to add colour and perk up a dull corner of your home.

MODERNIST CHIC
Only three colours were used to bring style and sophistication to this apartment.

OPPOSITES ATTRACT
We give you some pointers on how to mix modern and vintage furnishings.

PROPERTY

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prints with personality

I love prints and patterns. They are powerful visual elements in the world of interiors, and they can say a lot about the personality of the person who chose them.

This is especially true of a handful of well-known prints, such as the Unikko floral of Marimekko, which brings to mind the happy and free-spirited vibe of the 1960s (when it was designed), or the multicoloured stripes of Paul Smith and chevrons of Missoni, which connote "fashion-conscious, but fun". If you don't know these iconic patterns already, its high time you did, in Prints, Patterns and Personas on page 66.

For print-and-pattern newbies, The Decorative Effect on page 76 dispenses helpful advice on using florals, stripes and geometrics in your home, together with a showcase of the latest fabric designs. See how these tips are put into practice in the home featured in The Fine Print on page 84.

Over on our digital edition, we want you to get comfortable with colour, too. Get inspired with our bonus features – a home which uses the combination of yellow and grey to stunning effect, and a massive 10-page feature of furniture and accessories coded by colour. Use them to pep up your all-white space, easily! Another digital exclusive, Opposites Attract, shares tips on how to get one of the hottest interior looks – that contemporary and vintage mix.

We're all about making stylish living easy, and you'll definitely find more of that at our signature event, the *Home & Decor* Fair that's on from Oct 2 to 4 at the Marina Square Central Atrium. See you there!



REBECKKA WONG
EDITOR

Rebeckka



p.66

PUT A NAME TO THE PRINT
You've seen these patterns around, find out who designed them!

p.76

THE BIG THREE
Grow your confidence in using patterned fabrics with our expert tips.





POWER TRIO
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www.tinyurl.com/stylishstorage

ZEN-INSPIRED FIVE-ROOM FLAT IN YISHUN

This clean, open abode features a huge play area in the centre of the home. Made of rubberwood, the platform hides storage compartments.
www.tinyurl.com/zeninspiredhome





UPDATED GUIDE TO RENOVATION COSTS IN SINGAPORE

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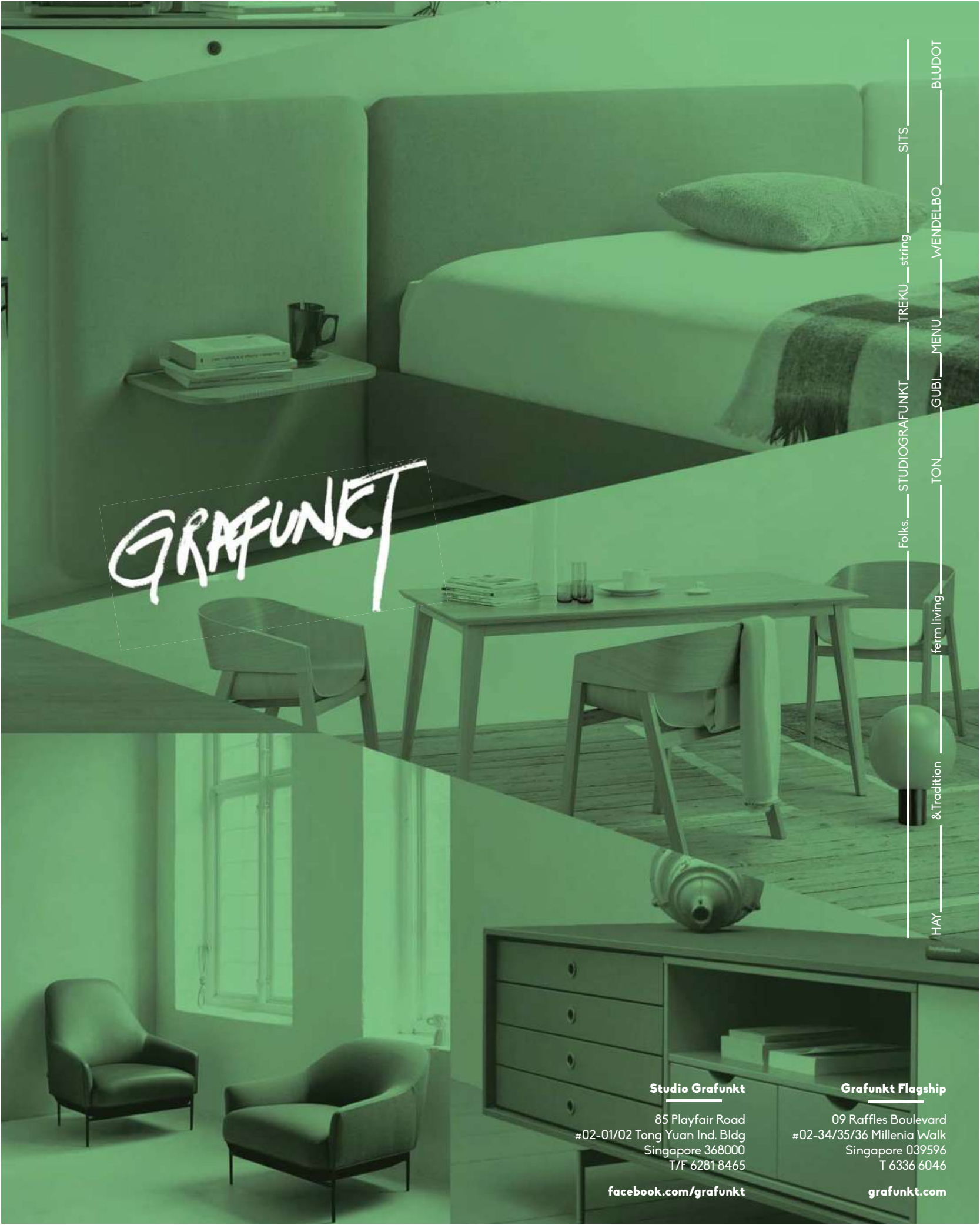
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OUT & ABOUT

A look at our favourite snaps from *Home & Decor*'s Instagram account this month.
Follow us at Homeanddecor_sg to see what caught our eye,
what inspires us, and what we're up to!



We love how form and function go perfectly together in this BCA Green Mark award-winning house.

OFF HOLLAND ROAD



The geometric-patterned tiles on its facade made us stop and linger outside this restaurant in Hong Kong.

WAN CHAI, HONG KONG



Personalised metal grilles can be found all over this street.

LOVE LANE, PENANG, MALAYSIA



Baker Gallery's showroom has a luxurious yet comfortable look.

PARAGON



Open Farm Community educates you on growing and eating local produce, while serving up some tantalising dishes.

MINDEN ROAD



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Dubois Bed by Nichetto

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Design partners include Istanbul-based, Autoban; British designers Matthew Hilton, and Ilse Crawford; Shanghai-based design studio, Neri&Hu; and the newest addition to the roster, Luca Nichetto.

Venetian designer, Luca Nichetto officially launched his Nichetto brand, made by De La Espada, at Maison et Objet Paris this January. He describes his approach to the brand thus, “My idea was really simple, to work deeply with details and the handcrafted quality of what De La Espada do”. This approach reveals itself in products including Harold Desk, whose upward curving tabletop is constructed of carved solid wood components, and both Stanley Sofa and Dubois Bed with their exposed wood frames and their upholstery stitching inspired by traditional tailoring.

Further highlights from Maison et Objet include Union Sofa by Autoban, its dramatic form recalling furniture design from the 1970s; Porto Chair by Matthew Hilton, a comfortable tub chair that reflects the designer’s meticulous attention to detail and engineering; and Tray Desk by Neri&Hu, a multi-tasking desk/vanity table with a secret compartment.

Every design studio has its own story to tell, and it is that story that allows design to reach to the heart of the home.

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TIPTOE



TONELLA



MOSAICO



VICHY



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NUDO BASIC

THE MAJESTIC COLLECTION

Or, How to Domesticate a Savage Collection...

Sancal's new Majestic Collection is a tongue-in-cheek look at majesty using the profusion of decorative styles from other periods, reviving sensations through the careful curation of materials and forms.

Managing Director, Esther Castaño, reveals that "our instinct told us that it was high time we revealed our sophisticated side, but how could we conserve the humour and fresh design that defines us?"

The result is an intentionally impossible, almost surreal, scenography: a palace-like environment that is inspired by the ancient "golden ratio", decorated with objects that are obviously false. A chic, innovative look, far from the staid perpetual reproduction of the past that is so often pushed as elegant.

Jokes aside, this is a serious, refined collection. The rich use of materials is as important to us as the lines of the pieces themselves. Soft velvet, the scent of leather, the detail of marquetry and the shine of metallic colours like copper or silver breathe life into the collection.

As if enchanted, the products each have their own personality: the mini armchair **Tonella**, by the Swedish design studio **Note**, pays tribute to one of Sancal's first pieces; **Yonoh's Mosaico** occasional table and seating system enables a seemingly infinite number of compositions; The **Vichy** dining table by French designers **BrichetZiegler** boasts its full spread of marquetry. Although, without a doubt, the star of the show is the **Tiptoe** sofa - by one of Sancal's favourite designers **Rafa García** - suspended on slim legs. The **Collar** and **Nudo** chairs have also had new pieces added to their families.

Intrigued? Come and experience a selection of the products at DREAM.

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Serious About Play

As the name suggests, you can't help but have fun with the new Playplay furniture collection from Journey East, designed by well-known design firm Lanzavecchia + Wai. Among the playful bunch, there's a dining table (Pong), which comes with a net, paddles and a ball (stored in a built-in drawer) for an impromptu game of ping-pong!

The Pong table retails for $1,950, and the Ping benches, from $675, all from Journey East at #03-02 Tan Boon Liat Building, 315 Outram Road tel: 6473-1693.



text REBECKKA WONG photo JOURNEY EAST





Peacock Chair

Why We Love It

Designed in 1947, the Peacock chair is at once ergonomic, innovative and stylish. The flared back mimics the feathers of the proud bird and features a flattened section that meets the shoulder blades, allowing one to rest flat against it. Inspired by traditional Windsor chairs, Danish designer Hans Wegner gave his creation a contemporary twist by exaggerating the height of its back and lowering its seat. Whether in an al fresco setting or in the office, it will likely dominate both spaces with its unique design.

Who Designed It

The Peacock chair is one of the 500 brilliant chairs by Hans, who made his first chair at only 15. Originally trained as a cabinetmaker, he earned an architectural degree in 1938 before working as an assistant designer with another Danish great, Arne Jacobsen. He also frequently collaborated with Johannes Hansen, the master cabinetmaker who helped produced the Peacock chair (which was named by fellow interior designer Finn Juhl). While the seat remains one of Hans' most famous works, it was only two years later, in 1940, that he attained international fame with the Round chair.

What It Inspired

In 1949, Hans released the Folding chair, as well as the Wishbone chair. Both designs earned iconic statuses, but they also featured similar elements seen in the Peacock chair. For example, the former echoes the arched back, while the latter features the same handwoven, paper cord seat. ⬣

THE PEACOCK CHAIR IS AVAILABLE AT SPACE FURNITURE.

text ELIZA HAMIZAH photos SPACE FURNITURE

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1 Chan Hampe Galleries champions local artists such as Safaruddin Abdul Hamid (Dyn), whose work, Still, is pictured here.

2 Find artist Tay Bak Chiang's work, titled Deep Autumn, at Chan Hampe Galleries.

3 You can even buy ceramic art online from The Artling. Pictured is Christopherson Ho's work, Feel The Heat.

4 In Bangkok's Four Seasons Residences is this work by Wittawat Thongkeaw, acquired through The Artling.

5 Online galleries such as The Artling also work with brick-and-mortar galleries.

ART

ONLINE OR OFFLINE?

BUYING ART ONLINE IS GETTING POPULAR, BUT IS IT POPULAR ENOUGH TO REPLACE THE PHYSICAL GALLERY?

Until two years ago, shopping for art online was frustrating, due to technical glitches and mediocre goods. It was said that the online art gallery was where "inferior", old or editioned pieces were offloaded by artists, who saved their best works for physical galleries.

Today, online art retail is a huge, and growing business. More serious e-dealers have entered the market, with well-designed websites, credible artists and significant works. Based on the Hiscox Online Art Trade Report 2015, the value of online art sales was about US$2.64 billion (S$3.8 billion) in 2014, and is expected to reach US$6.3 billion in 2019.

So, are conventional galleries in trouble? We speak to both an online, as well as an offline gallerist to find out the perks and perils of each avenue for the potential art collector.

Virtual vs Real

The online platform can potentially offer a broader range of works – at least, as much as its bandwidth allows – for browsing than a physical gallery can. According to Tolla Sloane, art consultant and curator of online gallery The Artling, such a platform "acts as a resource and a way to buy online if you are not in the same country as the artworks you love".

Some collectors feel more comfortable seeing an art piece in person first. "Nothing can replace viewing an artwork in person; it is the best way to experience the nuances of a piece," says Samantha Seger, gallery director of Chan Hampe Galleries. She says that participating in international art fairs, especially prestigious ones, more than makes up for the difficulty in reaching global art collectors. For example, Chan Hampe Galleries sold a full set of work by Singapore artist Dawn Ng before the preview at Art Basel Hong Kong in 2013.

Interestingly, some collectors don't prefer to see the actual work. These online-savvy customers find buying art online a less "intimidating" and "pretentious" experience than visiting a traditional gallery, which may feel like an exclusive club.





2



3

Trust Issues

The resistance to buying art online often stems from questions such as: Are the works authentic? Is online payment safe? Are the goods returnable?

All works sold at The Artling come with certificates of authentication signed by the gallery, the artist, or both. "This is the current industry practice," says Tolla. Standard "buyer beware" issues – such as the dealer's track record, return policies, shipping costs and artwork certification – still apply, no matter where they are sold, adds Samantha.

A New Synergy

In reality, online and offline galleries might not even be competitors. Almost every brick-and-mortar gallery has an online presence, often selling directly to international clients through their websites. Additionally, online retailers often serve as promoters for their physical counterparts. "We work largely with established galleries, which give our clients the reassurance to make online purchases," says Tolla. Samantha concurs: "The Artling website shows specific works agreed upon by both the gallery and the platform. Interested collectors are connected directly with the gallery. Online platforms are a great way for physical galleries to reach new audiences."

The Artling's online presence has been turning art browsers into buyers as well. Tolla shares: "We recently sold a series of paintings that the collector had been seeking for some time, following a conversation on our online Live Chat (service). We also sold our first work via Instagram recently!"

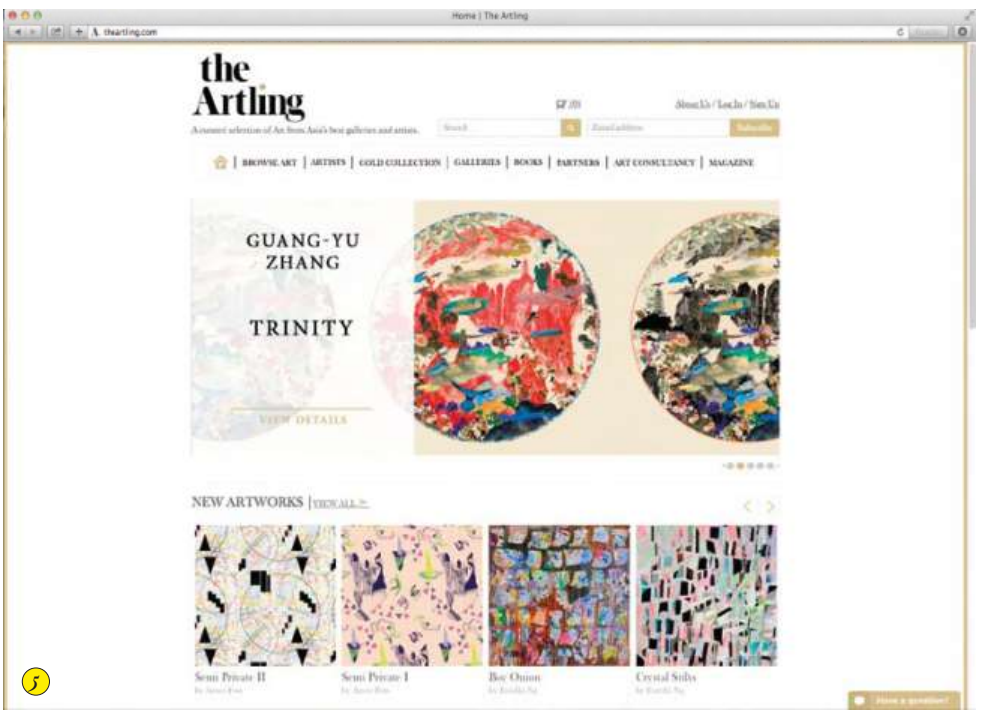
Traditional galleries cannot ignore new media as a platform for reaching out. Samantha admits: "We've found social media to be very effective in connecting with our customer base and finding new audiences."

Online galleries are behaving like their physical counterparts, too. In June, The Artling showcased the works of 17 of its partner galleries at a pop-up event, organised with Walkabout SG and Books Actually. "This combines the variety of an online platform with a personal touch," says Tolla.

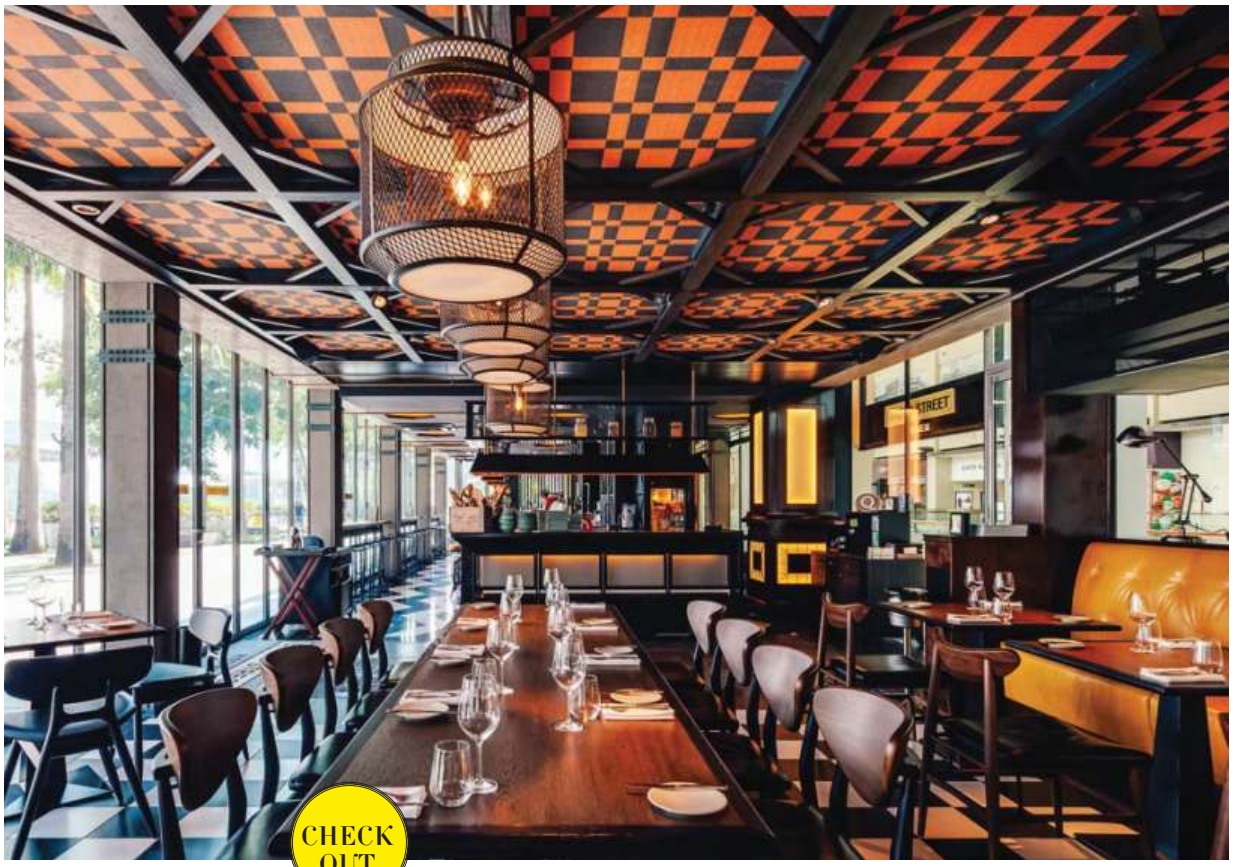
The main issue is probably not the platform, but the artworks. "What's most important when purchasing art is that the buyer genuinely likes the piece!" adds Samantha. With more virtual and physical avenues to purchase artworks, buyers can only benefit. ⬣



4



5



LEFT
The ground floor of the restaurant, with views of Marina Bay, features black and white tiles, and a graphic orange and black abstract ceiling design.

BELOW
The bar is constructed with suar wood and metal mesh. Backlit decorative panels further enhance the laid-back, but elegant, space.

BOTTOM, LEFT
The restaurant serves up classic British fare, and dishes with an Asian touch, such as the spicy tuna tartare with sesame oil and wonton crisps.

CHECK OUT

BREAD STREET KITCHEN



Michelin-starred chef Chef Gordon Ramsay's gourmet brand has finally found its way to Singapore shores with the highly anticipated Bread Street Kitchen. This outpost, which gets its name from its address in London, is located at The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands.

The two-storey restaurant and bar, designed by renowned firm Wilson Associates, exudes a cool vibe that resonates with the brand's East London industrial roots. Its look incorporates classic black and white chequered flooring, mustard-yellow tufted leather banquette seats and eye-catching columns – which the designers included to define the space.



Other significant elements of this part-industrial warehouse, part-city brasserie include exposed pipes, bronze-tone finishes, wire mesh, tinted mirrors, dark timber, as well as vintage-inspired lighting and accessories. Unique to Singapore is the statement-making entrance walkway clad with manhole covers that were sourced locally.

Sitting by the bar, the focal point of the space, you get a magnificent view of the Marina Bay waterfront and the city skyline.

As for food, signature dishes include British favourites such as shepherd's pie ($38), and traditional fish and chips ($26). You can also try the dishes reinvented with a local twist, such as tamarind-spiced chicken wings with spring onions and coriander ($18), and spicy tuna tartare with sesame oil and wonton crisps ($19). ●

BREAD STREET KITCHEN IS AT BAY LEVEL, L1-81, THE SHOPPES AT MARINA BAY SANDS, TEL: 6688-5665.

text LOUISA CLARE LIM photos (interior) BENOIT FLORENCON (food) MARINA BAY SANDS

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NEW SHOP

MOBEL STORY

FURNITURE COMPANY WITH HIGHLY CUSTOMISABLE EUROPEAN FURNITURE

At Mobel Story's Dempsey Hill showroom, home to six European designer brands, you will undoubtedly covet Hulsta's smart interior fittings and gush about how comfortable Leolux's plush sofas are. But because there is no one-size-fits-all formula (even for world-renowned designer brands), Mobel Story makes every piece of furniture in the showroom customisable to suit your space and style. Make it shorter, longer, or mix and match systems – every requested tweak will be carried out in the respective brand's Europe headquarters.

Mobel Story is an evolution of Hi Ko, which for the past 10 years have exclusively carried Danish kids furniture label Flexa. It has since welcomed brands such as Kymo (Germany), Leolux (the Netherlands) and Paola C. (Italy). "We are very picky when it comes to selecting brands. These were picked for their versatility in design and functionality, but, most importantly, for their fine workmanship," says Javine Tan, Mobel Story's business development manager.

Take the Leolux Parabolica chair ($11,370). The swivel seat sports a unique form with a contemporary tone, and users can lie back on it, or use it with the armrest as a mini desk – no wonder it was awarded the Good Industrial Design in 2010.

A highlight of the showroom would be the grand Hulsta Mega Design desk and library unit ($56,700). Originally measuring a towering 3.9m, customers can decide how tall and how much storage space they want.

"We have the software that lets customers visualise their changes instantly, in 2-D. This makes it more convenient for homeowners, even those without interior designers," says Mobel Story director Koh Gim Yen.

And as with most of its products, the Hulsta Multi-Forma room system ($44,631) features an illumination system, including a feature that automatically switches it off after two minutes of inactivity.

Other items up for customisation – be it in size, shape or fabric – would be the Kymo rugs (from $2,400 to $12,000), which have been chosen to adorn luxury boutiques such as Louis Vuitton and Swarovski. ⬣

MOBEL STORY IS AT #01-02 DEMPSEY HILL, 71 LOEWEN ROAD. TEL: 6634-3835.





ABOVE
At the showroom, you can find tableware such as this ceramic teapot from Paola C. ($154), designed by Aldo Cibic.

ABOVE, LEFT
The Hulsta Lunis bed combination ($50,587) includes a motorised bed, an under-the bed night light, and soft-closing drawers.

BELOW
The Leolux Ponton Next sofa ($31,095) features swivel points that enable you to create your own ensemble.

BELOW, LEFT
The TV console and library units are personal favourites of Mobel Story director Koh Gim Yen.





text ELIZA HAMIZAH photography JASPER YU art direction YEW XIN YI



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NEW SHOP

THE BEURO

ARTISANAL FURNITURE AND LIGHTING

A new addition to the surprisingly trendy tenant mix of grungy industrial building Tan Boon Liat is The Beuro on the third floor, which carries eight furniture and lighting brands in its spacious 11,000sqf showroom.

One of the brands that can be found here is Thomas Bina from the US, which uses reclaimed wood for its furniture pieces. The brand's penchant for unlikely combinations of materials, such as concrete and wood, to produce handmade, environmentally friendly pieces impressed the team behind The Beuro.

"We look for brands with a unique quality and good craftsmanship. The brand name itself is secondary," says Hadi Nishaburi, The Beuro's owner and managing director, who sourced the brands with his team. These include Italian furnishing labels Loop & Co, Frag and Swan.

In the shop, the products are not divided according to brands or collections. Instead, the industrial-chic showroom is zoned into areas, such as bedrooms and living rooms, to resemble the spaces found in a home. The sections feature a combination of pieces from various brands, in order to showcase their versatility.

Carpets and rugs, which are used to zone the shop, are from Jehan Gallery, which Hadi also owns and is conveniently located next door. So, not only will you see an impressive furniture range at The Beuro, but the pieces will also be complemented by the latest floor coverings, which you can buy, too! ⬣

THE BEURO IS AT #03-09/10 TAN BOON LIAT BUILDING, TEL: 6222-4500.

ABOVE
The Bardolino leather sofa ($12,925) from Loop & Co is paired with the Freddie coffee table from Thomas Bina ($2,300).

TOP LEFT
The shop's industrial-chic theme was kept simple, so the focus could be placed on the products themselves.

TOP RIGHT
One of Hadi's favourite pieces from Thomas Bina, the Bonham dining table ($5,900), also sits in The Beuro's meeting room.

LEFT
The Gio coffee tables from Loop & Co come in four sizes, retailing from $1,855 to $2,450.

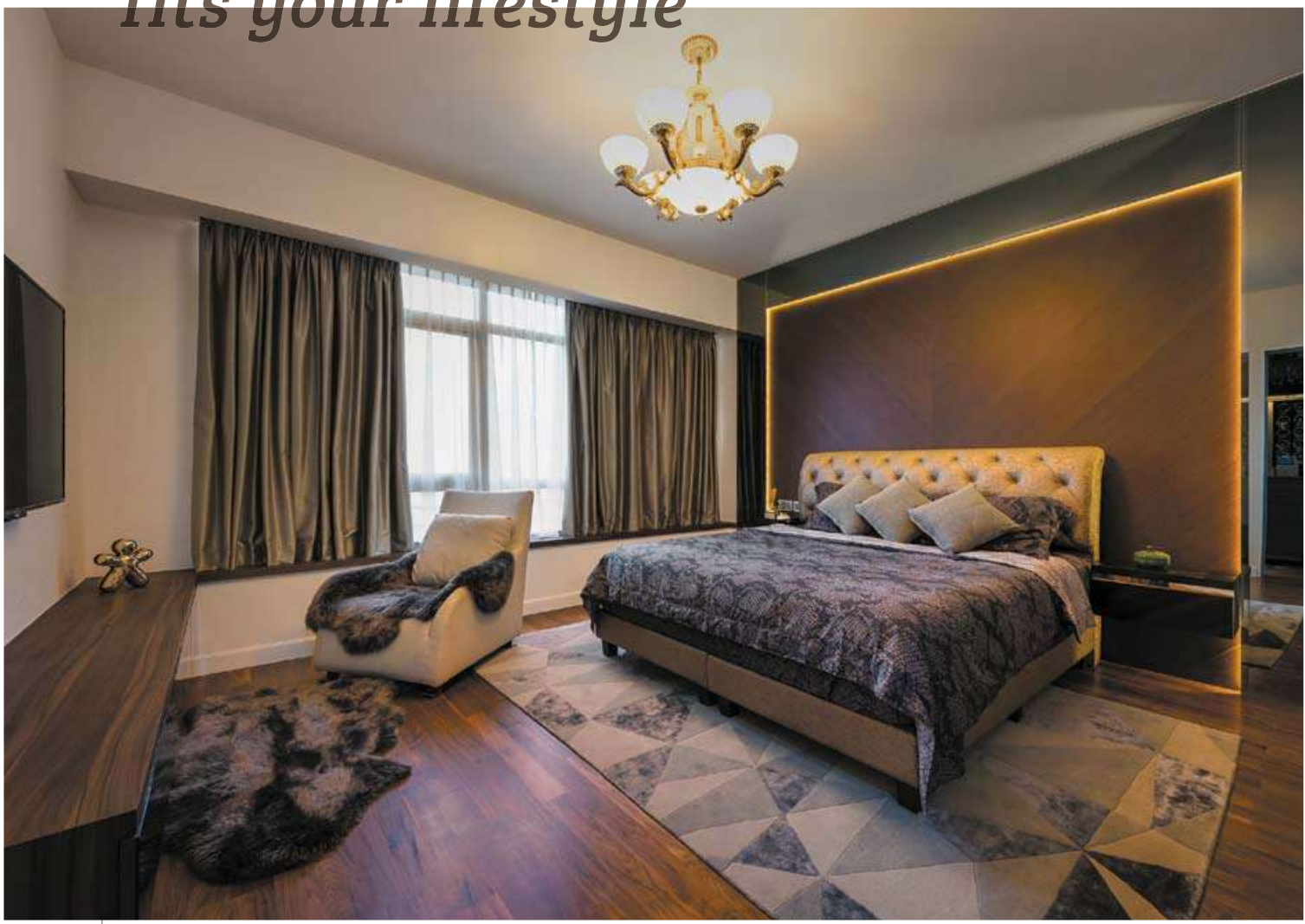
FAR LEFT
Each Kyoto ceramic stool is priced at $350.





text SHARMAINE LOH photography VERNON WONG art direction KAFFY TAN

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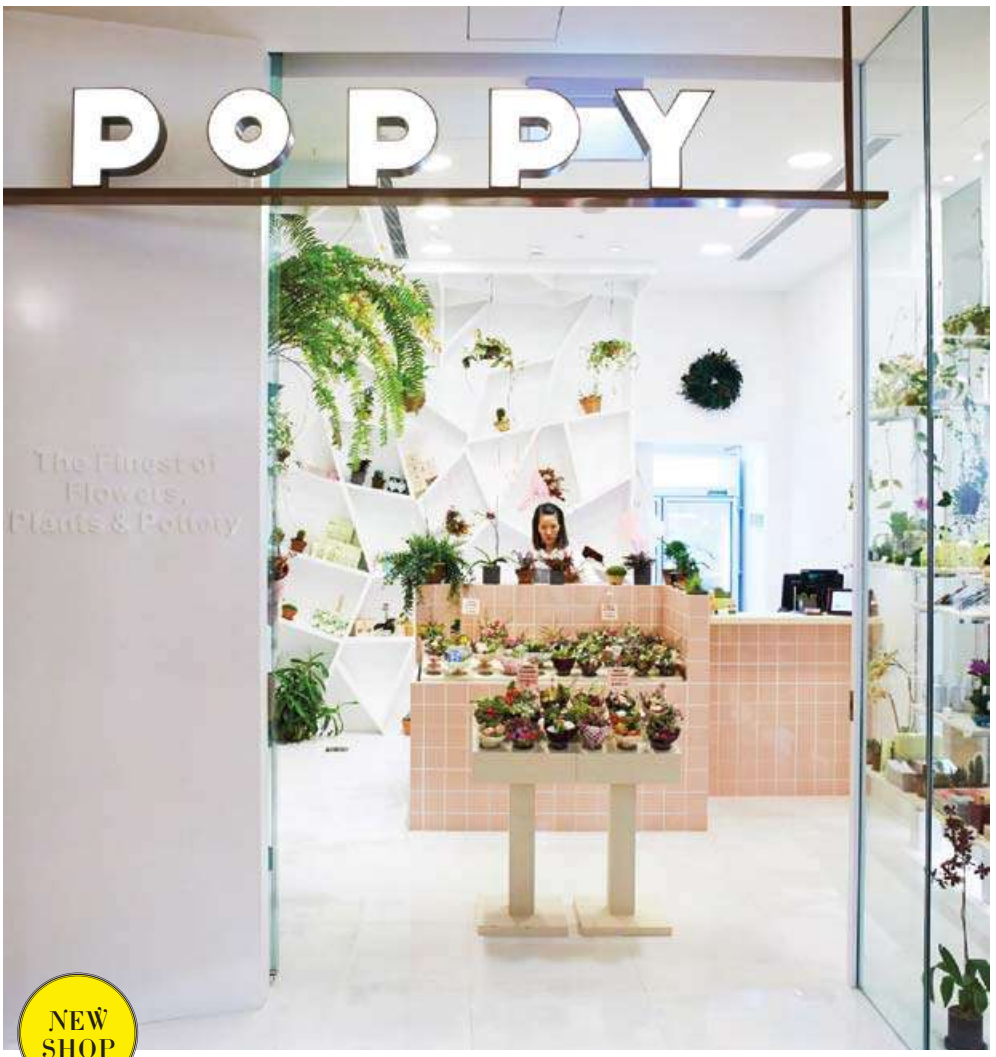






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NEW SHOP

Poppy Flora Studio

Poppy Flora Studio's new city location (it just moved from Pasar Bella to Capitol Piazza) has made it a whole lot easier to pick up fresh blooms for the home after some retail therapy in town. Helmed by Sarah Lim, the studio has been around for 15 years, and has made unstructured arrangements and exotic flowers its trademark. "We use more unusual imported flowers, and seasonal blooms," says Sarah. The colours of the flowers pop in this mainly white 250sqf shop, which also features a dramatic wall of geometric shelving and a dusty-pink tiled counter. Other flower-related products, such as books, garden shears, and toiletries from L'Erbolario, are also available here. What we love are the grab-and-go $9.90 bouquets, which Sarah says were priced to be affordable, as she wants to inspire people to start living with flowers.



POPPY FLORA STUDIO IS AT #02-21 CAPITOL PIAZZA, TEL: 6225-8496.

OUR PICKS

Marble Accessories

1



2



3



1 Tria candleholder, $35, from Khul Home.
2 Madam Stoltz marble board with wood handle, $119, from Make Room.
3 Huebsch marble and brass table lamp, $279, from Make Room.



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Stylishly Scandinavian

Dress up your home with Scandinavian-style furniture from Aarhus' new line (priced from $899), designed by Danish designer Bertil Stam. The range of furniture pieces includes sofas, ottomans and stools, which combine style, comfort and durability. You can also choose from over 50 different colours and materials, such as walnut and oak.

AARHUS IS AVAILABLE AT ALL HARVEY NORMAN OUTLETS. VISIT WWW.HARVEYNORMAN.COM.SG FOR LOCATIONS.



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KYOLITE PANELS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE EWINS HOME, #01-100 MIDVIEW CITY, TEL: 6659-0060.

The Real Deal

No time to head to the shops? Get your hands on furnishings from designer brands such as Cappellini, Artemide and Sika Design (right), from West of May, touted as the world's first online furniture store to sell authentic designer furniture and accessories. Tying up with furniture retailers and wholesalers, it promises a short delivery time of two to 10 days, a 100 per cent money-back guarantee, and discounts for members.

CHECK OUT THE STORE AT WWW.WESTOFMAY.COM.





A Fine Tribute

Dine in elegance with the Collection De La Maison, Robinsons' tribute to its rich heritage. The iconic imagery of Robinsons' first store at Raffles Place (opened 1858) is found on this series of tea cups, sugar bowls, milk jugs and plates. Every item in this Fine Bone China collection is trimmed with gold edges, bringing a classy touch of nostalgia to your dining experience.

PRICED FROM $25 FOR A SIDE PLATE, THE COLLECTION DE LA MAISON IS AVAILABLE AT ROBINSONS THE HEEREN, LEVEL 5.



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Behind its good looks, Pixie Clips delivers coffee perfection designed to work in tandem with the Nespresso capsule. This interaction delivers perfect equilibrium between the right water temperature, quantity and speed. Along with its optimal extraction pressure, Pixie Clips has been developed to enhance the aroma, crema and flavour of the Nespresso signature Grands Crus coffees, cup after cup.







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A True Classic

With its new 2016 designs, you'll want to consider Caesarstone for more than one application in your home. There are now six more designs for the quartz surface, including the gorgeous marble look-alike Statuario Nuvo, a new Concrete series (Fresh Concrete and Raw Concrete), and other delicately veined patterns (above). Caesarstone can be used for kitchen countertops, wall panelling, bathroom vanities and flooring and more.

VISIT WWW.CAESARSTONE.SG FOR RETAILERS.

Smells Like Singapore

There's probably no one more qualified to capture Singapore in a scent than UK-based, Singapore-born Master Perfumer Martin Koh. Together with lifestyle boutique Poetree, he has created three home fragrances inspired by Orchard Road (Lily-of-the-Valley with Roses), the rainforest (Red Apple and Green Violet), and citrus trees (Citrusy and Floral Earl Grey). The bottles, designed by product designer Peter Sam, marry Peranakan-inspired images with Mondrian-style graphics.

PRICES START FROM $79 FOR A 150ML GLASS BOTTLE FRAGRANCE, AVAILABLE FROM WWW.POETREEINBLOOM.COM, AND FROM HOMES TO LIFE STORES AT 112 KATONG AND WESTGATE.





Drinking Up Luxury

In partnership with Beam Suntory, designer Nathan Yong has designed a walnut wood cabinet specially to house three prized single malt whiskies which are each the same age as our nation's independence – 50 years. For its design, Nathan was inspired by the wooden barrels used for whisky distillation. Four sets will be produced, but only one will be put up for auction, with part of the proceeds donated to charity.







Into the Future

Roche Bobois' Future Greats collection incorporates furniture pieces with futuristic elements. Inspired by the sun, moon and stars, the range uses lots of colour, metal finishes and unique geometric shapes. Some of the pieces include the Trace desk lamp (top left), a slim, minimalistic metal structure with LED lighting, and the La Souche (left), an end table with a magazine rack.

THE COLLECTION IS PRICED FROM $1,800, AND IS AVAILABLE AT 354 ALEXANDRA ROAD, TEL: 6734-7939.



Shared Aesthetics

Add a touch of Japanese and Scandinavian design to your home with Source's latest collection. The Japanese label has launched a bed frame, side table, and bookshelves – designed with the simplicity and functionality of Scandinavian-style furniture in mind. Made of solid Canadian oak wood and mango wood, they'll fit perfectly in any modern minimalist home.

THE SOURCE COLLECTION IS AVAILABLE AT HOMMAGE LIFESTYLE, #03-01 TAT ANN BUILDING, NO. 40 JALAN PEMIMPIN, TEL: 6258-5258.



Sleek Storage

Keep your home neat and uncluttered with the Fairlane Buffet sideboard by Stanley Furniture. Crafted in solid wood, it features a drawer and three adjustable shelves within, giving you generous and flexible storage spaces. It's elegant, too, with a clean and contemporary look. The wide girth also makes this sideboard the perfect base for a vignette.

THE FAIRLANE BUFFET SIDEBOARD BY STANLEY FURNITURE RETAILS FOR $4,349, AT TAYLOR B FINE DESIGN GROUP, 43 KEPPEL ROAD, TEL: 6225-7090.



Wood at its Best

For those of us in love with the look of wood, but worried about the sustainability of the material, consider Kebony. It's also made of wood – sustainable softwood – but it's been treated with bio-based liquids so that the wood becomes harder, develops a high resistance to fungi and rot, warps less, and is all-around more durable. Kebony, which is developed in Norway, is suitable for both indoor and outdoor applications. Using a rail system instead of nails for installation also means no rusting metal parts which might degrade the wood.

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.KEBONY.COM.

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Kitchen Matters

The 2016 Ikea Catalogue revolves around the kitchen: growing your own food, how you cook and store it, what you eat, and how to live more sustainably and harmoniously. When you get your hands on this 324-page book, look out for the customisable Metod modular kitchen range, what's new on the Swedish Food Market menu, and other smart solutions for homes. You can also download the app to see more content, such as videos, and virtually walk through spaces.

THE 2016 IKEA CATALOGUE WILL BE DELIVERED TO MORE THAN 1.26 MILLION HOMES. ALTERNATIVELY, VISIT IKEA STORES IN ALEXANDRA AND TAMPINES.



Heritage at Home

Add the quirks and heritage of our little red dot to your space. Local design studio Onlewo has developed fabric and wallpaper (and soon, floor and wall tiles!) with drawings inspired by Singapore. Motifs include iconic places such as Little India, Tiong Bahru, the Botanic Gardens, as well as delicacies like *kueh tu tu*, pineapple tarts, *ondeh-ondeh*, and rice dumplings.

ONLEWO FABRICS AND WALLPAPERS ARE AVAILABLE AT 129 JALAN BESAR. VISIT WWW.ONLEWO.COM.



Curves Ahead

Shown at the Salone del Mobile in Milan earlier this year, Minotti's new 2015 collection has us drooling over its fine craftsmanship, and sleek low-slung forms. Designed by Rodolfo Dordoni, curves are big this year, especially seen in the Seymour series of sofas and lounges (above). We also like the generously sized Yang seating system, and Catlin tables, which feature a combination of glossy and matte metal finishes for its leg supports.

POP INTO THE MINOTTI BY MARQUIS INTERIORS SHOWROOM AT #01-02, 30 HILL STREET, TEL: 6338-2822.



The Illuminated Book

The Lumio lamp is a functional piece of art. In the form of a book, it's light and portable, lighting up any space stylishly. Mount it on the wall or take it along to an overnight stay at the beach – this 2015 Red Dot Award winner features durable, water-resistant Tyvek pages and high-performing LED illumination. Charge it using a USB port, and it will last up to eight hours.

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Pastel Glow

Add hints of pastel and neon to your home with the Lueur lamps, a series by Singapore design studios Desinere and Tinge. Emitting a soft warm glow that is perfect for ambient lighting, the lamps are made out of premium paper and maplewood. The folded origami shade is a combination of traditional, artisanal craftsmanship and contemporary design.

THE LUEUR LAMPS ARE AVAILABLE AT FOUNDRY, #01-01, 3 SEAH STREET, TEL: 6339 6381.

Fit for Royalty

The profiles of the furniture pieces in Spanish brand Sancal's new collection might be clean and contemporary, but they are rich in texture and colour, evoking a new model of modern luxury for the home. Aptly named The Majestic Collection, the elegant pieces use soft velvet, leather, marquetry details and metallic shine to bring a sense of, well, majesty to any space. Contributing designers include Rafa Garcia and Yonoh.

SANCAL IS AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH DREAM AT 456 RIVER VALLEY ROAD, TEL: 6235-0220.



DIARY



5 Stars: Art Reflects On Peace, Justice, Equality, Democracy And Progress

Oct 2, 2015, to May 2, 2016 at Singapore Art Museum

To celebrate SG50, the Singapore Art Museum invited five notable local artists – Ho Tzu Nyen, Matthew Ngui, T.K. Sabapathy, Suzann Victor, and Zulkifle Mahmod to interpret the qualities of each star on the Singapore flag as artistic works. The exhibition is also curated to encourage diverse audiences to ponder what these shared human ideals mean in the present day.



Penetrations

Till Oct 18 at Chan Hampe Galleries, #01-21 Raffles Hotel Arcade

Showcasing artworks and creations that explore our colloquial language, local art collective Vertical Submarine's Penetrations collection uses colourful poster-style illustrations and lyrical rhymes to represent Singaporean culture. The texts on the artworks are dialect phrases less heard of in modern-day Singapore, leaving viewers with a sense of nostalgia.

text REBECKKA WONG, LOUISA CLARE LIM, ELIZA HAMIZAH & SHARMAINE LOH


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The industrial-inspired look can seem too bare, too cold. Soften it with functional accessories in brass, silver or matte black.





FROM LEFT
Gold wire small **vase**, $250, and gold wire large **vase**, $290, both from Haus of Egg3. Hexagonal small **vase** by Ferm Living, $69, and hexagonal large **vase** by Ferm Living, $80, both from Grafunkt. Brass Votive look brass **tealight holder**, $10, from Boconcept.

BACKGROUND
DC 3342LUN Cinder Basalt **laminate**, price upon request, both from EDL.

ON FLOOR
DC 3368LUN Cassaforma **laminate**, price upon request, both from EDL.

OPPOSITE, FROM TOP
Sun **trivet**, $105; moon **trivet**, $105; rhombus **paperweight**, $78, and Eclipse **bottle opener**, $45, all by Futagami from Strangelets. ▶



FROM LEFT
DX stainless steel **stool**, $449, and X steel **side table**, $549, both from Taylor B. Fine Design Group. Solo brushed **spoon** and **fork**, $13 each; Goa stainless steel and wood **knife**, $31; Solo brushed **knife**, $18; Goa stainless steel and wood **spoon** and **fork**, $23 each, all from Grafunkt.

BACKGROUND
DS 3369LUN Caribe Grigio **laminate**, price upon request, from EDL.

Other items, stylist's own.

OPPOSITE, FROM TOP
Arrow metal wall decoration, $95, from Boconcept. King and Queen beer **mugs**, $243 for a set of two; Suzugami 100% tin medium **plate** by Shimatani, $78, and Suzugami 100% tin large **plate** by Shimatani, $138, all from Atomi. ▶



location KAM LENG HOTEL



FROM TOP
Steward black three-tier **table** by Norrmade, $480, from Haus of Egg3. Shadow matte black 897 **pendant spotlight** with wooden canopy by Brokis, $568, and Shadow matte black 895 **pendant spotlight** with wooden canopy by Brokis, $707, both from Grafunkt.

BACKGROUND
DC 3342LUN Cinder Basalt **laminate**, price upon request, from EDL.

ON FLOOR
DLD 1572EL Grey Limestone **laminate**, price upon request, from EDL.

OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT
Hexagonal black **floor lamp**, $495; Votive silver **tealight holder**, $10; Villa black metal **candlestick**, $95; Zinc silver **tealight holder**, $25, and matte black USB **dock lamp**, $695, all from Boconcept. Black **side cabinet**, $450, from Haus of Egg3. Iron back flower **bowl**, $70, from Boconcept.

BACKGROUND
DC 3342LUN Cinder Basalt **laminate**, price upon request, from EDL.

ON FLOOR
DLD 1572EL Grey Limestone **laminate**, price upon request, from EDL.



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Want more style inspiration? Check out the By Usage category in the Products section on Acacia Fine Fabrics' website, which groups fabrics according to their usage.

For more information on Acacia Fine Fabrics and a listing of its distributors, visit www.acaciafabrics.com.

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ACACIA FINE FABRICS

PRINTS PATTERNS AND PERSONAS

You've seen these prints before, but never quite knew their stories. Here are the fascinating tales behind these familiar favourites – from Missoni's distinctive chevrons to Florence Broadhurst's Japanese blooms.



Every designer has a trademark, and Paul Smith fashioned his out of leftover fabrics from the stock house. It was all he could afford in 1970; the only materials he had to work with for his inaugural shirt collection were stripes and plain fabric.

In the 1990s, he created the brand's definitive 28-colour stripe, and this became the signature look that would grace everything from ties to jugs, and even a fridge. These stripes could take on any colour, from muted shades for a sophisticated look to the original, punchy hues for some fun. It proved that there are no limits to a simple design.

The designer, now 69, keeps himself occupied with 13 collections a year, and a handful of collaborations, including designs for the home. In 2014, he worked with Danish furniture company Carl Hansen & Son and fabric brand Maharam to create upholstery for the former's iconic chairs. More recently, he partnered with British brand Anglepoise to present his signature colour stripes on its lamps.

Carl Hansen & Son is available at Space Furniture, Smeg at APS Lifestyle, and Anglepoise at Million Lighting.



Now, here's a success story for rebels. In 1964, after being told by Marimekko founder Armi Ratia that there would be no floral motifs designed under the Finnish label, illustrator Maija Isola did just the opposite. She created Unikko, the cheerful poppy motif – and instead of showing Maija the door, Armi fell in love with the print.

Unikko heralded the 1970s' flower-power movement and became one of the industry's most iconic patterns, one that big brands such as Ikea and Finnair were proud to use. Last year, planes flying between Helsinki and Seoul sported the poppy motif to celebrate Unikko's 50th anniversary and the collaboration between Marimekko and Finnair.

For such a widely used pattern, Unikko has managed to remain classy and trendy for over half a century. It is also constantly being updated with new colourways; a patchwork version was developed last year. Now, it can be found on almost every Marimekko product, from crockery such as plates and pot holders, to apparel such as dresses and shirts.

Marimekko is available at Capitol Piazza.



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The opulent Japanese Floral print is inspired by its designer's flamboyant and eccentric lifestyle. Originally from Australia, Florence Broadhurst took on multiple identities throughout her life – from being a French couturier and an English aristocrat, to a dancer and painter. Having travelled all over Asia, it is no surprise that her enduring career as a wallpaper designer (which she began in her 60s) was influenced by chinoiserie elements such as cranes and *kabuki* fans.

Florence interpreted her experiences into eclectic works of hand-drawn, hand-screen printed art – one rumour attributed the inspiration behind her large, bold prints to her then-failing eyesight.

Today, Sydney-based company Signature Prints restores and hand-prints her work. Of the 30 patterns released internationally, the Japanese Floral has attracted the likes of fashion label Kate Spade and department store David Jones, and can be found on apparel, bed linen, and even vespas.

Florence Broadhurst fabrics can be found at Bode Fabrics & Furnishings, and Design Intervention. ▸



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The fashion house of Missoni is never one for minimalist or muted tones – it's always been about unabashedly loud prints and hues. These characteristics are imbued in the brand's iconic multi-hued chevron pattern, which you can now find on the floors of exclusive Missoni-branded hotels, as well as on the racks of American chain store Target. Surprisingly, this signature zigzag pattern took almost a decade to discover.

Missoni was founded in 1953 by Ottavio and Rosita Missoni, but it was only in 1962 that they bought the Raschel knitting machines which produced the chevron print in knits with colourful and intricate lines. This newfound technique springboarded the brand to high-end fashion runways and international fame.

The Missoni Home line was introduced in 1983, where the bold and eclectic style of the Italian brand became available in home accessories such as lamps, pouffes, wallcoverings and sofa covers. The empire continues to be helmed by the Missoni family.

Missoni Home is available at Hilton Hotel. ►



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It has come full circle for 52-year-old Irish designer Orla Kiely. Once an illustrator for fabric and wallpapers, as well as an employee of retailers Marks & Spencer and Habitat, she now helms an empire of her own – thanks to her famous sprig and leaf motif called Stem.

The Orla Kiely brand started in 1992 with the Olive and Duck Egg, a bosomy motif that paved the way for its leggier, more popular sibling. The Stem was inspired by a rowan tree stem and leaves, and simplified into an illustration that can be arranged in repeats, as well as handle a variety of colour combinations. The original palette was inspired by that of the Irish landscape, which includes greens, greys, and browns, set against warmer tones such as orange and yellows. Designed in 2000, Stem can be found on kitchenware, furniture, cars, and has even been featured on an Irish postage stamp.

The print may have become synonymous with the Orla Kiely brand, but the designer considers it to be only a small part of the company – top fashion and home textile brands such as Uniqlo and John Lewis, who have collaborated with the brand, would disagree!

Orla Kiely homeware is available at Robinsons The Heeren. ⬣

text ELIZA HAMIZAH

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THE
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3

The big three of fabric prints and patterns – florals, geometrics, and stripes – are sure ways to revitalise a home or personalise a space. If you're unsure about where to start, this helpful guide to where and how to use them will definitely get you in the mood for decorating!



1 Liberty Jeffery Rose Tree, from Bode. **2** Robert Allen Medley Blooms, from Danovel. **3** Designers Guild Caprifoglio Grande, from Romanez. **4** Black Edition Astratto, from Tatum. **5** Liberty November Michael Indigo Linen Union, from Bode. **6** Robert Allen Flowing Flower, from Danovel.

Florals

Floral prints get a bad rep for being Grandma's favourite, but they don't have to look dated or gaudy. Choose the right style for your space: A soft-hued, country fabric may not work in a modern minimalist home, while a stylised Art Deco print may look out of place in a traditionally decorated room. If you are new to florals, don't commit to prints on permanent fixtures such as sofas – use them on cushions and curtains, instead.

HOW TO USE

Motifs in fresh blue or slate grey, as well as those with a bold or graphic style, are good contemporary options. For a more masculine treatment, choose moodier shades instead of pastels, and pair them with solid colours or geometric prints. ▶



7 Jennifer Shorto Firebirds, from E&A Interiors. **8** Warwick Rivoli Envy (on Alexis sofa), from Harvey Norman. **9** Robert Allen Cairo Bazaar, from Danovel. **10** Folklorico 8241, from Roselle Mont Clair. **11** Kirkby Design Terrazzo Prints, from Tatum. **12** Korla Grand Alhambra Stars, from Originals.





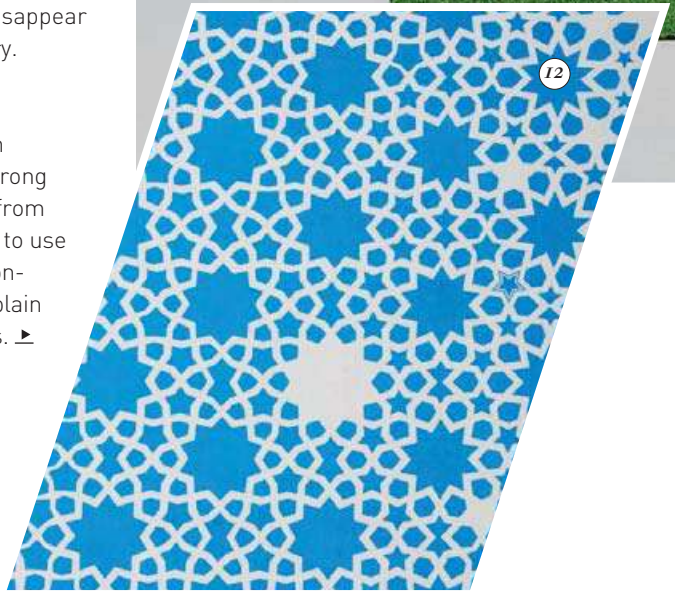


Geometrics

The symmetry and consistent nature of geometric designs allow them to complement almost everything. Larger geometric prints can be used on carpets or rugs, whereas smaller prints look better on soft furnishings such as cushions. However, note that certain patterns might disappear into the folds of accessories, such as drapery.

HOW TO USE

Indian or Southwestern-influenced prints can create a focal point in a rustic space, while strong graphic lines may help to draw the eye away from architectural shortcomings. However, try not to use too many geometrics as they're quite attention-grabbing on their own – break them up with plain prints, ikat designs, or more organic patterns. ▸





13 Romo Kashta, from Tatum. **14** Warwick Farrell Glass (on cube stool), from Harvey Norman. **15** Robert Allen Extra Mile, from Danovel.

Stripes

Stripes are the most versatile and accessible print out of the three, and a great alternative to plain fabric. The difference in impact is in the stripes' width, colour combination, and direction. For instance, a navy-white combination has a coastal feel, while a multicoloured print evokes fun and casualness. Pinstripes offer a masculine touch (try it on an armchair!), and broad stripes make a room appear grander.

HOW TO USE

Vertical stripes create the illusion of height, so using them with curtains can make ceilings look higher. Horizontals, whether applied on cushions or beddings, are bolder and emphasise the pattern. ▸

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TIPS

Fabric experts give advice that will leave you pattern-confident in no time!

• When picking fabric, consider the furniture you will be using it with, the size and colour of motifs, and the theme of the room. – Danovel

• Patterns don't have to match! They simply have to complement each other. The easiest way to mix patterns is with colour. Feel free to mix florals, ikats, or modern motifs, as long as they share a common palette. – Design Intervention

• Neutrals work well as a base when using large-scale prints. Start with a neutral hue for the walls and floors, and use bold prints in either a rug or key pieces of furniture. Then, fill in your space with neutral-coloured sofas, chairs and ottomans. – E&A Interiors

• Some pattern designs are much stronger than others, so mixing a weak design with a strong, well-designed pattern can highlight the weaker one. Sit them together to see if it works or not. – Bode

• In smaller spaces, patterns should be used primarily as accents, such as using the same print for a throw cushion and a lampshade. A larger space allows more freedom to be adventurous, so upholster your sofa in a bold print, but balance it out with neutral throw cushions or curtains. – Originals

text ELIZA HAMIZAH

HARTO
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GUSTAVE STOOL





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Design Tip

Using the same print – in this case, an ikat pattern – in two colours gives neutral-hued spaces such as this room much-needed colour and detail without appearing too busy and cluttered.



THE FINE PRINT

An unrestrained mix of print and pattern jazzes up the otherwise neutral interiors of this luxurious apartment.

WHO
A couple in their late 30s and their two young daughters

HOME
Four-bedroom condominium unit in Robertson Quay

SIZE
1,700sqf

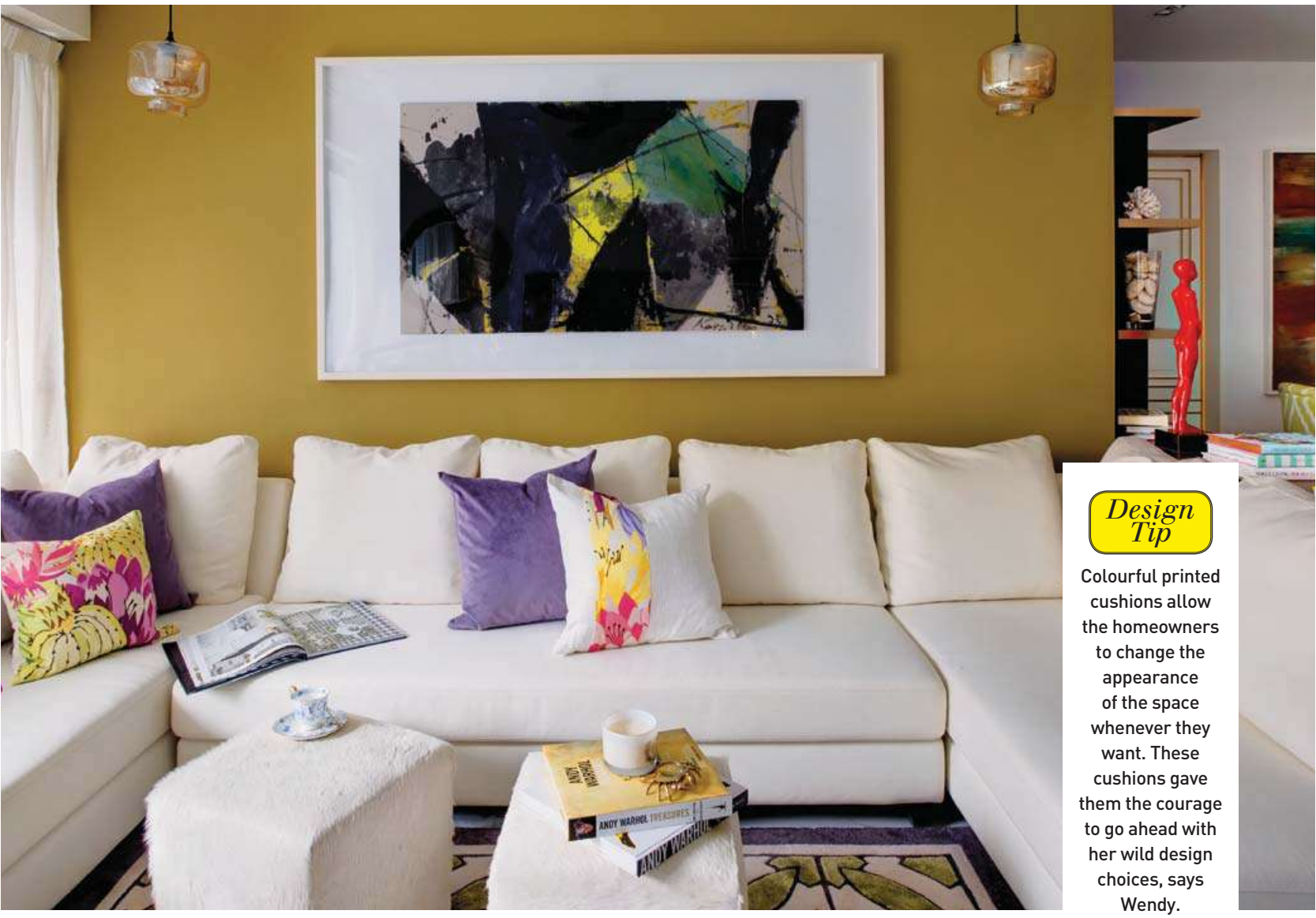






ABOVE
The homeowners selected art pieces that not only worked with the interior design, but also remained true to the style of art they liked.

LEFT
The green hue selected for the cushions, chairs, walls and rug helped bring in the foliage and tropical feel of the outdoor landscaping.



Design Tip

Colourful printed cushions allow the homeowners to change the appearance of the space whenever they want. These cushions gave them the courage to go ahead with her wild design choices, says Wendy.

The design of this chic family home might have been inspired by the glamorous New York penthouses seen on TV series *Gossip Girl*, as homeowner Tiana Tay shares, but it stands out in its own distinctive way.

The apartment, designed by Wendy Smith of Design Intervention, has a canvas of neutral tones such as whites and creams, punctuated with bright, refreshing colours in the form of patterned material finishes on the soft furnishings, as well as art pieces. "We selected furniture in white, black, and bronze, as they are classic and won't date," explains Wendy.

Upon stepping through the private lift, classic-style dining chairs upholstered in a textile with an oversized ikat print come into view, and set the tone for this fashionable home. To the left, the sumptuous living area is furnished with a large U-shaped cream-coloured sofa, accented with throw cushions with tropical floral motifs, and a high-pile rug with a striking geometric pattern. The green hues of the dining chairs, wall and cushions tie in with the greenery and tropical feel of the view outside.

Even the powder room, located on the other side of the dining area, is not spared from pattern. Its walls are clad in tiles featuring different prints of beautiful kilim rugs. Wendy had these ornate tiles specially imported from Portugal.

The bedrooms have different themes thanks to the attractive wallcoverings installed – from broad stripes in soothing bronzy hues in the master bedroom, to pink, feminine toile de Jouy prints in the daughters' bedrooms. The couple spent about $200,000 on the renovation, and another $100,000 on the furniture. ▶

WHERE TO GO

Design Intervention, TEL: 6468-1942


MARY MCDONALD
VOGUE LIVING



ABOVE
After combining two bathrooms to create a larger master suite with a walk-in wardrobe, Wendy had space to accommodate a free-standing clawfoot tub.

OPPOSITE
Hints of gold in the textured wallpaper give the room an intimate feel. Touches of claret and rose were added for visual contrast, and crystal chandeliers brought glamour into the space. ▶

Design Tip

Small spaces don't have to be plain. Wendy wanted the powder room to resemble a Faberge egg, or the inside of a jewellery box. She chose intricately patterned kilim tiles from Portugal, and added accents of gold and sapphire for a bejewelled finish.



Design Tip

Homeowner Tiana always wanted a room covered in toile print. To balance out the feminine pink hue in the daughter's room, designer Wendy used accents of black. This prevents the room from looking too childlike, and will be suitable even for a teenager.



BELOW
Tiana and her husband are young professionals who wanted their home to have a clean modern look, yet still be sophisticated enough for them to entertain in style. ⬣



"When in doubt about what print to choose, save the brave choices for smaller furniture pieces and cushions, and keep the larger purchases classic and neutral."

– Wendy Smith, Design Intervention

text LOUISA CLARE LIM photography ALAN LEE/K STUDIO art direction DON TAN



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A NEW HIGH

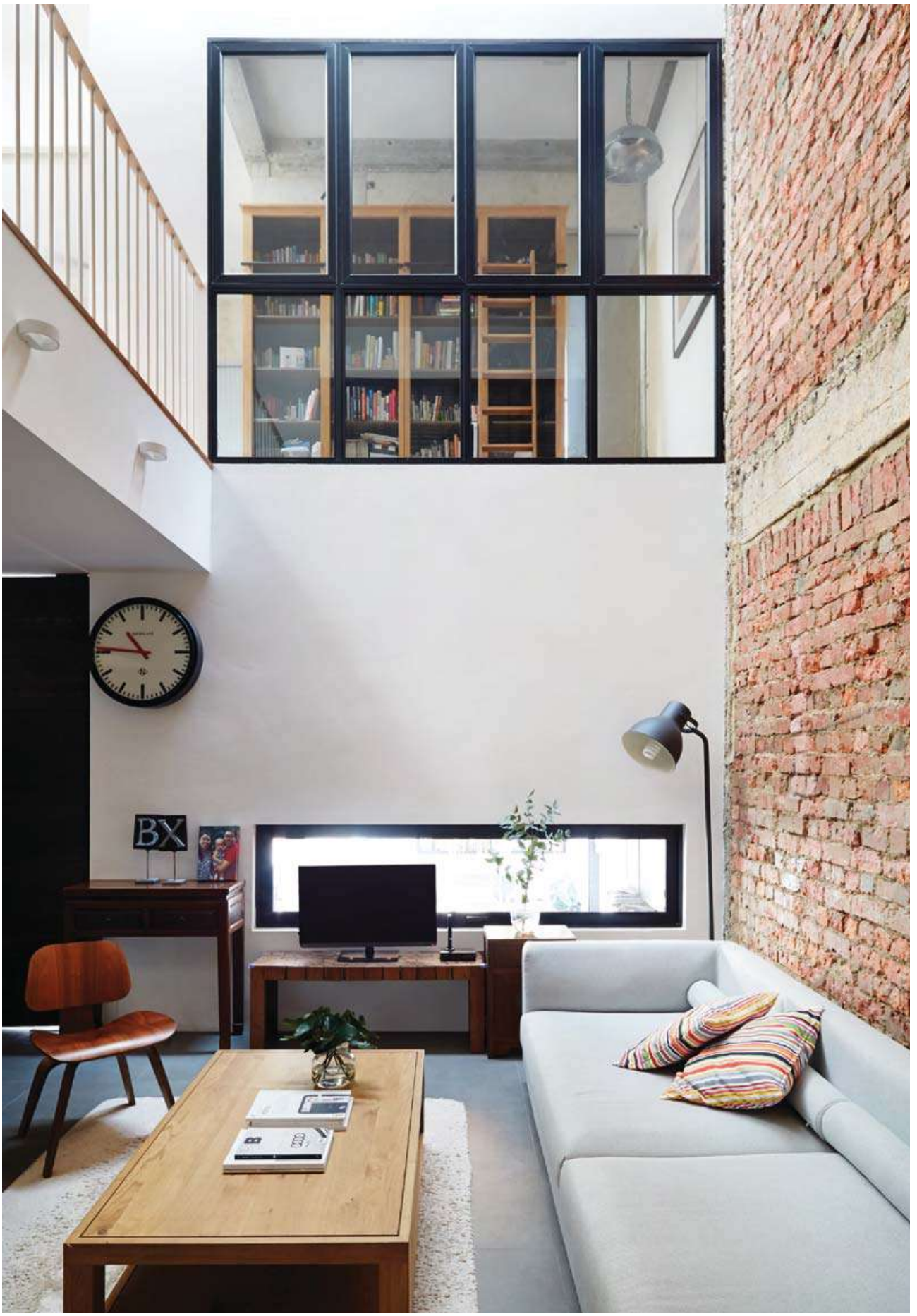
This dwelling reached new aesthetic heights by sacrificing usable floor areas for open spaces.

WHO
A couple and their toddler

HOME
A three-storey terrace house in Bishan

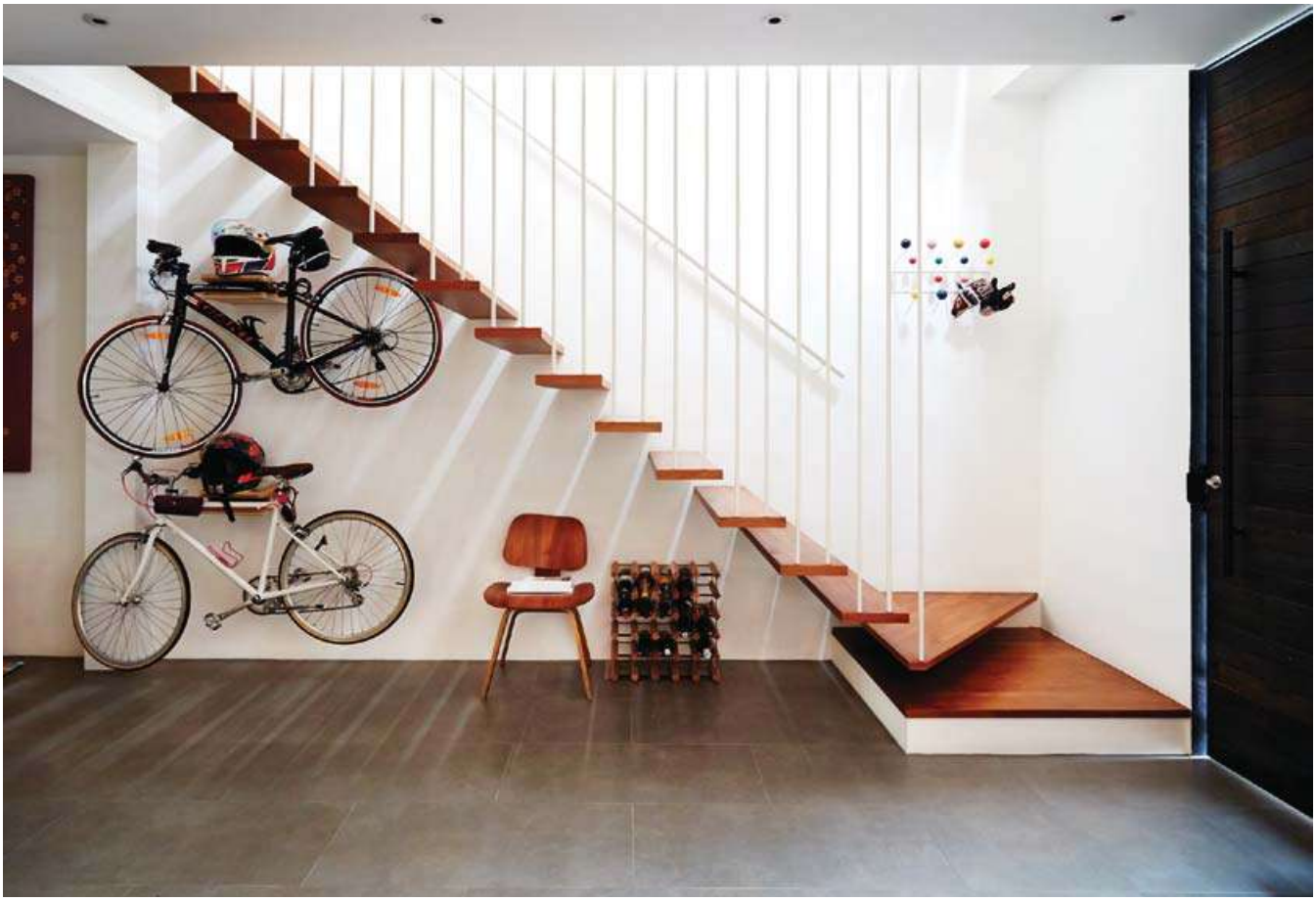
SIZE
2,339sqf

LEFT
The living room's grand double-height volume and expansive exposed brick wall provide an impressive welcome to visitors. The sofa is from Massimmo. ▶



LEFT
The homeowners didn't mind removing a bedroom on the second floor to have better interactivity within the home. Their furniture includes an Eames moulded plywood chair bought from Xtra.

OPPOSITE
The "floating" stair treads enable more light to come through from the skylight to the ground floor.



The renovation of this four-decade-old property came after a clear and concise brief, recalls Victor Ting, the creative director of interior design firm The Carpenter's. "The couple wanted high ceilings for the home – especially double-volume ceilings," he explained.

Previously a two-storey home, Victor maximised the space by adding an attic and extending the home's built-in area into the backyard. Now, the newly refurbished interiors resemble an effortlessly cool loft. Here's how the designer accentuated the home's spaciousness.

Highlighted heights

The first order of the day was to make way for the living area's impressive double-storey height. Although this meant the loss of a bedroom on the second storey, the missus explains that it's not a big sacrifice for the family, as they like entertaining and prefer spending time together ▸



in the communal areas. Having this double-volume void also facilitates better interaction across the two levels, enabling them to call out to each other no matter where they are at home.

Victor was very pleased that the couple was open to design-led ideas: "It's great that the homeowners were not insistent on fully maximising the usable area. This home can easily fit five bedrooms, but it would not feel as comfortable as it does now."

The master bedroom also enjoys a double-volume ceiling, which is dramatised by the pitched-roof inclined beams. The taller-than-average wardrobes also play up the room's expansiveness.

Let light in

As with most elongated terrace houses, allowing as much natural light as possible to flood in is crucial in ensuring that all the corners are comfortably lit. This was achieved through large windows that stand in place of internal walls, and skylights and floating stairs. They also enable beautiful shadows to be cast on the large expanses of walls in the home. Even the ▸





LEFT
The dining room is well-lit in the day, thanks to the air well on its right, and the glass kitchen door, which lets light in through the back door. The &tradition pendants were bought online.

ABOVE
The family plans their meals with the help of a weekly calendar on this blackboard.

RIGHT
These decorative ventilation bricks were installed to increase the airflow into the helper's room.



dining area and toddler's room, which both occupy the middle portion of the property, enjoy sufficient light during the day.

Stripped things back

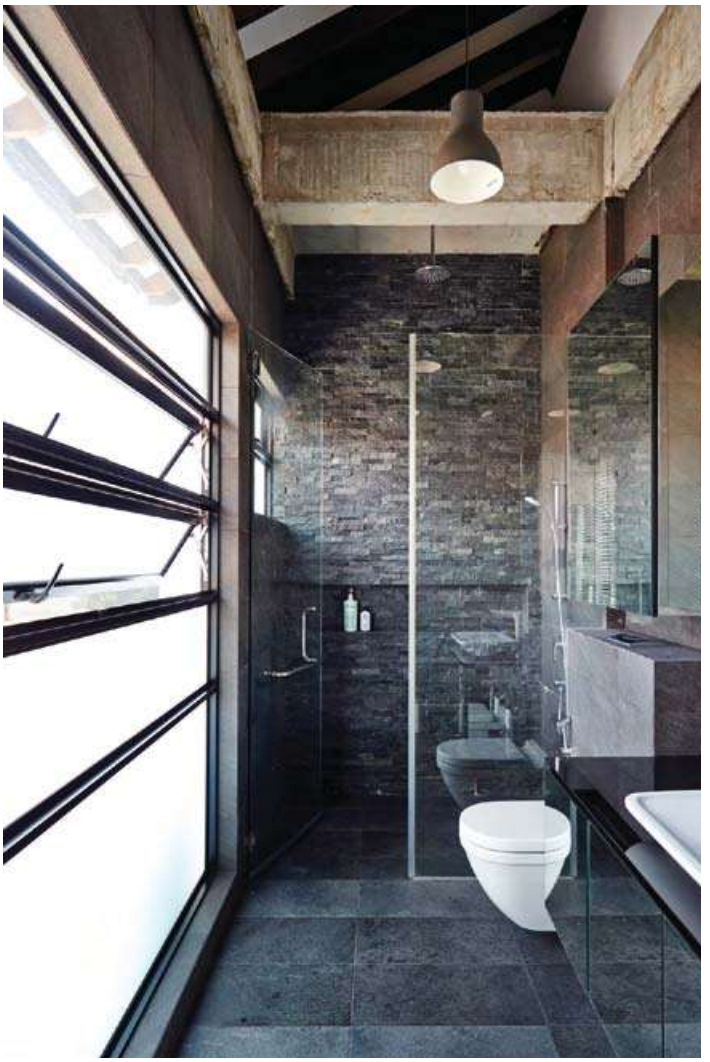
As the home's structure is the star of this project, much of the furniture and decorative elements were pared down so that they wouldn't vie for attention. The key visual element that ties up the first two floors is the exposed brick wall, which has an authentic rawness that brick veneers can never replicate.

The practical couple then picked out timeless, hardy furniture designs in neutral tones for the rest of the home, and accented the various corners with vintage industrial and Scandinavian-style lighting fixtures and fans to add a trendy slant to their already impressive home. ▶

WHERE TO GO

The Carpenter's, TEL: 6346-7555









ABOVE, LEFT & RIGHT
The master bedroom's quiet aesthetics allow its double-height volume to take centre stage.

(OPPOSITE) LEFT
The study room is given a brutalist-style treatment with raw concrete slabs.

RIGHT
The skeleton of the home is highlighted in the master bathroom, with the exposed structural concrete beams lending the space an edgy feel.



LEFT
The homeowners decided to add another level to create an attic. It can be converted into a bedroom, which then adds to the home's value if the family sells the house.

The home's striking architectural elements were allowed to shine thanks to its plainly decorated spaces.

text MAVIS ANG photography VEE CHIN art direction DON TAN



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ELVIS



COLLECTOR'S ITEMS

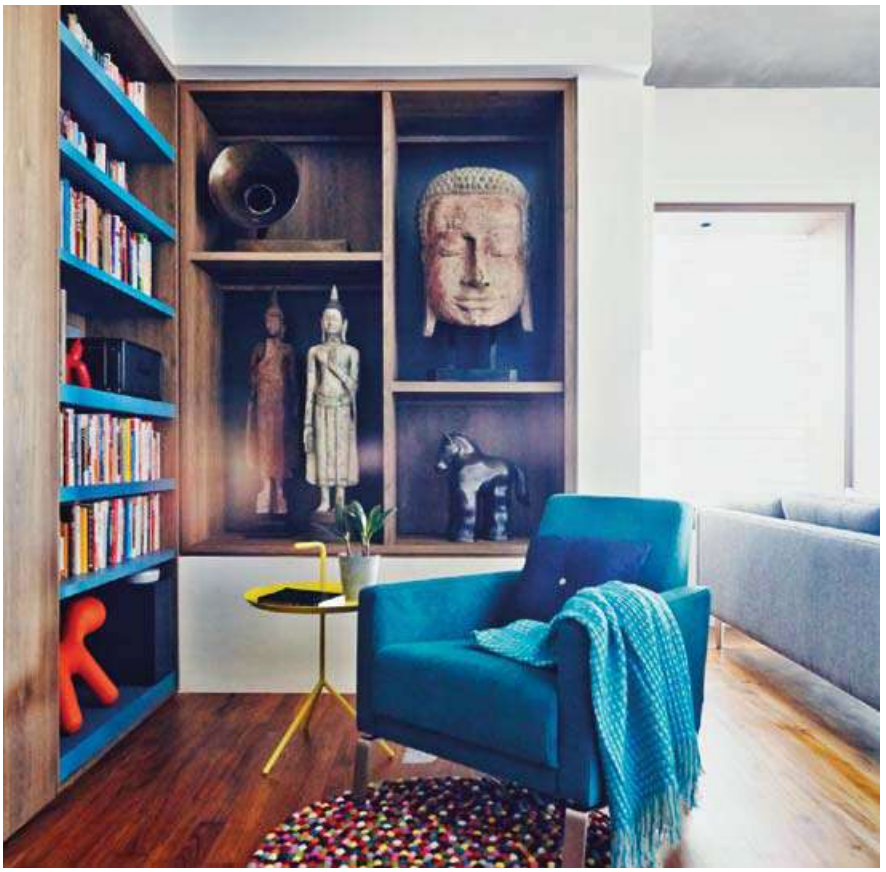
This industrial-style home is made more fun and interesting thanks to the homeowner's insatiable appetite for home accessories!

WHO
A bachelor in his 40s

HOME
Two-bedroom condominium unit in Farrer Park

SIZE
1,100sqf

LEFT
The Bend wire chairs and a cyan shipping-container bomb shelter-cum-storeroom are some features that stand out in this industrial-influenced home. ▶





ABOVE
The shelves were customised to house Elvis' Buddha figurines. The plush turquoise armchair is from Boconcept, and is paired with a Hay yellow side table from Grafunkt.

RIGHT
The once bare-looking bay window now has a wooden frame that makes it stand out.

OPPOSITE
The wood-clad canopy and flooring bring warmth to the industrial-style apartment.

Homeowner Elvis Thong loves home accessories, so it's not surprising that his new apartment is full of stylish objects. The pendant light from Taiwan, above the dining table, is just one item he hand-carried home from one of his business trips in Asia.

"I wanted to use plenty of concrete and wood in my home, but I didn't want it to look too dull," he says of his vision for the abode. To create a stylish canvas for his many treasured buys, he sought the help of Cadine Lim of Prozfile, who proposed an industrial-inspired look for the space.

Walking into the home, your eyes are immediately drawn to a cyan "shipping container". Within it is the bomb shelter, now used as a storeroom. To emulate the container look, the wall was clad in metal and given a long metal bar as a handle. It was then stencilled with the owner's name to add a fun element to the space. The dining-room wall was clad in concrete, as was the ceiling of the living room, with warm wood flooring to balance out the raw, stark surfaces.

Cadine replaced the original walls of the small kitchen with glass panes, and hacked away a study room to extend the living area. Shelves were purpose-built to house Elvis' large library of books, as well as his collection of Buddha figurines purchased from Cambodia. To admire them, the homeowner sits in his reading area, where one of his many books on business and entrepreneurship is always on the table. ▸





LEFT
The shipping container-esque storeroom was given a coat of spray paint the colour of Elvis' new car, for a fun look. Artwork from Ode to Art.

(OPPOSITE)
TOP LEFT
Elvis didn't want the bathroom door to stand out in the living room, so Cadine designed it to blend in with the wall of storage compartments.

TOP RIGHT
This rose-gold plated rhinoceros head jazzes up the monochromatic bathroom.

LEFT
Concrete was spread over the original floor tiles in the balcony to match the theme of the home. Elvis loves the balcony, as it gives him a great view of the city.

RIGHT
The master bathroom was done up in black and white for a clean look. ▶

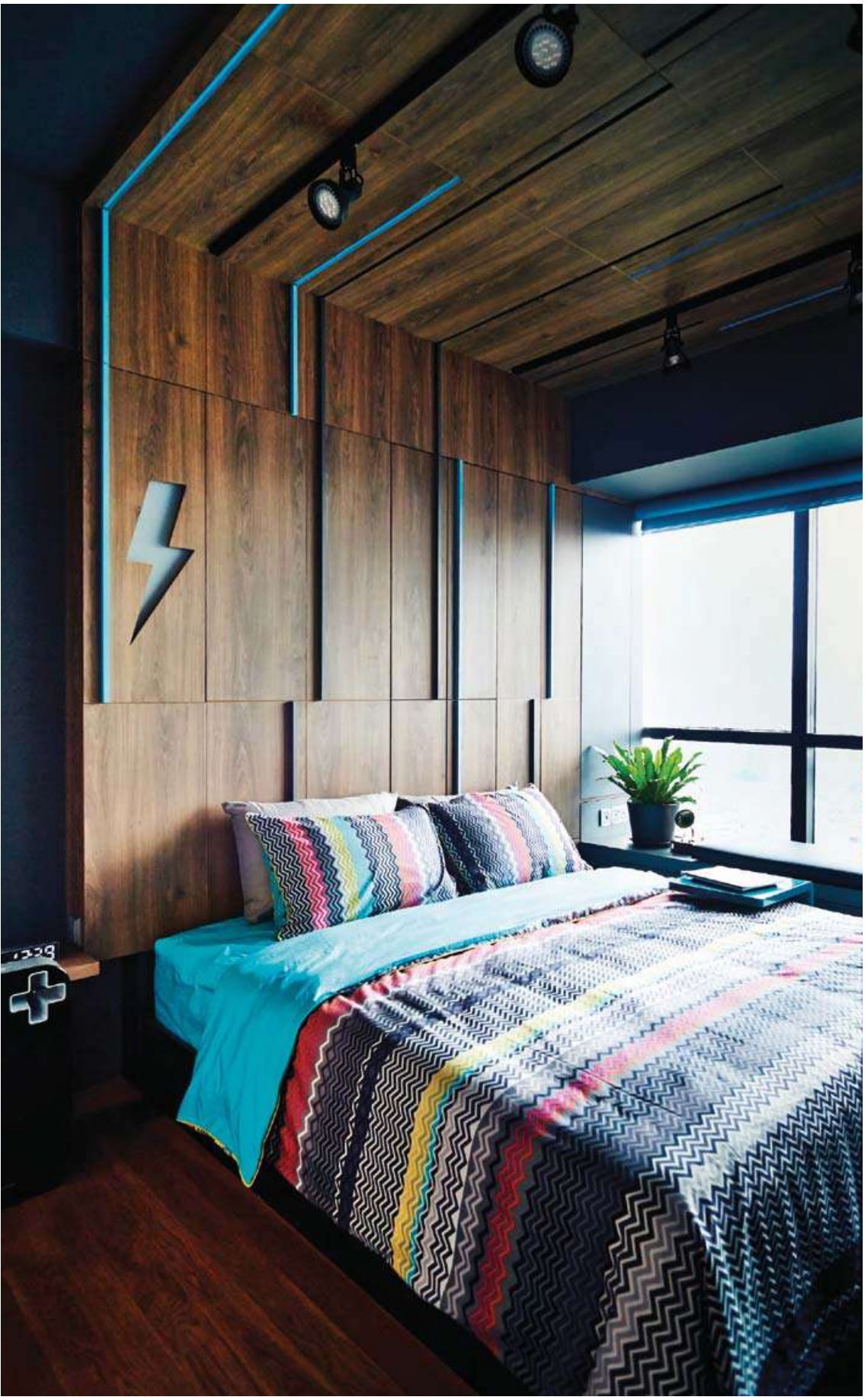






With brightly coloured accessories, this home is full of personality – just like its homeowner.





LEFT
Cadine designed the home to hide clutter. Hence, the wall of the master bedroom has hidden storage spaces, similar to the one in the living room.

"It motivates me to read and learn more," the headhunter says.

In the bedroom, one might find the lightning bolt design on the wall a tad familiar. The symbol was inspired by the logo of one of Elvis' favourite brands, Agnes B.

Another favourite style is that of the W Hotel in Taipei, for its relaxed feel, which is reflected in his bedroom, with its dark wood canopy and dark-coloured walls. The laminate-clad wall behind the bed has built-in storage units, with coloured timber strips for handles.

"I can't seem to stop buying home accessories and furniture!" says Elvis, who's an avid reader of interior design magazines. In fact, he's already mulling over changing his almost-new sofa. What he is satisfied with, however, is the $80,000 (excluding furnishings) renovation, which has given him the perfect space to display his purchases. ⬣

WHERE TO GO
Prozfile, TEL: 6396-6672



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IN HARMONY

The husband's global taste in decor and the wife's love for bold colours create a unique, personal and eclectic look for their home.

WHO
A couple in their 40s

HOME
Two-bedroom walk-up condominium unit in the east

SIZE
800sqf



RIGHT
No dining table is required in this home. A peninsula counter was installed between the open-concept kitchen and the living room, and is where the couple dines. ▶









RIGHT
Bright colour and arresting shapes in the form of furniture pieces and decor accessories dramatically transform the simple, light-hued living area.

LEFT
The designer customised a suspended display shelf over the peninsula counter, for the couple to display their Murano glass sculptures and decorative plates from China and Turkey. It also disguises the back of the top-hung kitchen cabinets on the other side.

LEFT, BOTTOM
The bookshelf along the corridor leading to the master bedroom helps zone a corner of the living room (originally the second bedroom), and camouflages the change from homogeneous floor tiles to parquet flooring.



Homeowners Charanjit Singh and Amarjit Kaur had moved from their previous 1,300sqf place into a smaller dwelling – an 800sqf two-bedroom condominium unit. Although they had significantly less space, the couple wanted to bring a lot of their furniture and decor pieces with them, so they really had to make the most of their new place's layout. They engaged designer Benny Loke of 19sixtyseven, who worked around the small footprint to create not only a more efficient, but also social, home.

"As the apartment is so small, the spaces within have to be multifunctional," the designer says of the structural alterations he made. One significant change was opening up the kitchen to the living room, making the combined area brighter and visually larger. In place of the demolished wall, the designer installed a peninsula counter, which functions as a kitchen worktop, a casual but intimate dining area, as well as a bar counter, when the couple entertains. In fact, a traditional dining table was foregone, as "we never really used the old one!" laughs the couple. In keeping with doing away with the unnecessary, Benny knocked down the walls of the second bedroom to make the living area more spacious. He did, however, keep the parquet flooring, which provides some warmth and an eye-catching contrast to the light stone-like homogeneous floor tiles in the now airier common area.

When it came to the furniture, Charanjit and Amarjit knew exactly which pieces they wanted to bring with them; and conveyed this to Benny even before the renovation started, so he could ensure that they fit perfectly into the home's design. The couple's cherished possessions are a result of ▸



about 10 years of collecting, and include vintage decor accessories, hand-me-down furniture pieces from Charanjit's family, as well as art and other objects bought during their travels to countries, such as France, Spain, India, Turkey, China, the UK and Italy. "The global and eclectic style of decorating mainly comes from my husband, while the bold colours throughout are influenced by me," explains Amarjit, whose favourite colour – turquoise – is the predominant colour in the home.

To showcase some of the odds and ends from their treasured collection, Benny designed a suspended display shelf above the peninsula counter dividing the kitchen and living room. This smart use of space also means that the top-hung kitchen cabinets, accessed on the opposite side, are hidden from view. "Small details like this make a big difference," says Charanjit. After all, when it comes to a compact space, less really can be more! The renovation cost $61,000, excluding furniture. ▸

WHERE TO GO

19sixtyseven, TEL: 9797-8955







LEFT
The couple's eclectic style shows up in the living room – they matched a faceted mirror with a half-moon hall table, and accented it with glass pieces from Italy and Spain.

TOP RIGHT
As a minibar, the couple uses an old cabinet that was handed down from the husband's family. The tassels that embellish it are hair accessories from the wife's wedding outfit.

TOP LEFT
The second bedroom was removed, for a bigger living area, and the remaining wall was dressed up with framed artwork. The one of a horse is a hand-finished textile from Myanmar, while the other two "paintings" are actually marble-print paper from Italy.

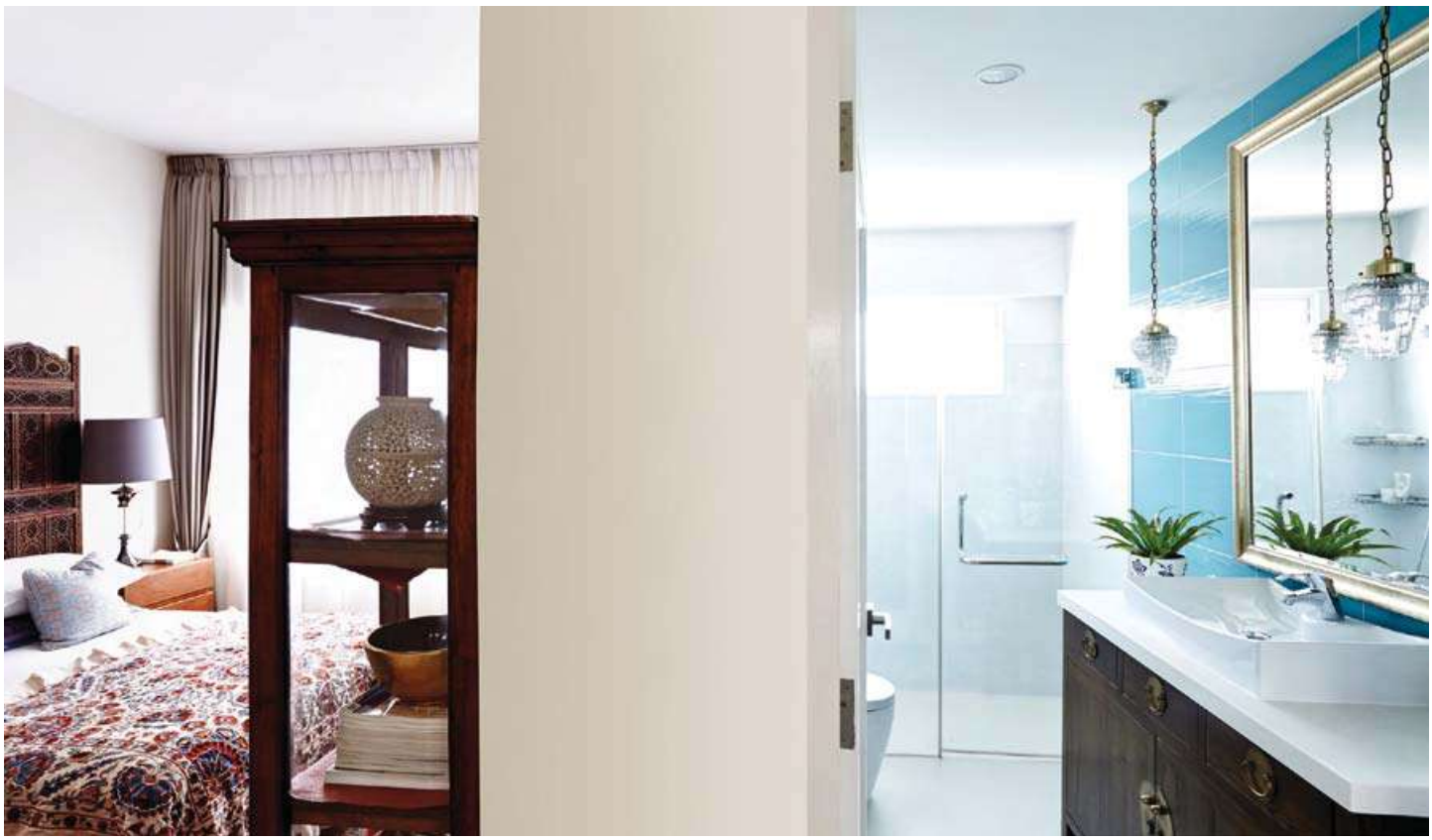
RIGHT
Even the bathroom has a focal point — brightly coloured tiles form the backdrop for a large mirror with a brass-tone frame, over a custom-made vanity which comprises an oriental-style cabinet purchased from a shop at Dempsey Hill.

(OPPOSITE) TOP & BOTTOM
In the master bedroom, the ornate headboard is actually a screen the husband acquired from Kashmir, and the Suzani (embroidered decorative textile) on the bed is from Uzbekistan, bought in Turkey. The bright colours and prints in the artwork and soft furnishings play up the otherwise neutral space. ⬣





We give you tips on mixing contemporary style with vintage finds on our digital edition. Turn to pg 16 for how to download.



text LOUISA CLARE LIM photography DARREN CHANG art direction LIM YI LING

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- LEGATE
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- THE WALL STORY
- URBAN HABITAT DESIGN
- VIEWQWEST

HOME & DECOR FAIR 2015

PRACTICAL AND STYLISH

Refresh your home's appearance with window blinds!



A sure-fire way to give your home a new look would be to change your window treatments. While such a makeover traditionally calls for a switch to heavy fabric curtains, more homeowners are now turning to practical, yet equally stylish, window blinds.

Once eschewed as the humdrum window treatment – commonly seen in stodgy office buildings – blinds have since become a popular option for homeowners looking for easy-to-maintain treatments. It also helps that they come in a myriad of options!

With 40 years of experience in window treatments, Indonesian company Onna understands the importance of providing practical yet fashionable options for homeowners, and is constantly expanding its collection with new and innovative blinds. Take these few models, for example:

▶ Outdoor motorised roller blinds

Equipped with sun-, rain- and wind-sensitive sensors and timers, these are perfect for shielding your home from the elements, and can be fully automated.

▲ Cabana 7 roller blinds

Designed in Korea, the Cabana 7 roller blinds were created to keep out heavy weather. Built with a strong, stainless steel wind guide, they will always remain secure, even during heavy wind or rain.



Onna rainbow blinds

Perfect for small rooms, the rainbow blinds are a combination of Venetian and roller blinds, offering you the flexibility to control the amount of light you let into your home. Its striped design in a variety of colours gives it a pleasant aesthetic, making it a great fit for a modern home.



Onna indoor wooden blinds

Made of quality timber, the wooden slats of these blinds bring its natural beauty into your home while allowing you to enjoy the convenience of modern technology. These wooden blinds come equipped with a motorised system for ease of use.



Onna Lipat door insect screen

Unlike the usual wire-mesh insect screens, the Lipat door insect mesh screen is hidden within the frame, making it barely visible. As a foldable insect screen door, it gives you a clear view of the outdoors while keeping out pests such as mosquitoes, insects and other creepy-crawlies.

PROMOTION

Receive a free one-channel branded remote control (worth $120) when you purchase a minimum of two motorised blinds at the *Home & Decor* Fair! Also receive up to $1,000 off your purchase of automated motorised roller blinds, France system and manual indoor and outdoor window finishes at the Fair!





Onna outdoor UV blinds

Just like the Cabana 7 blinds, these were designed to be weatherproof. The UV-resistant blinds come in many styles, including the popular wood-lookalike design that offers your home a touch of natural beauty.

ONNA

#01-44 Northstar@AMK, 7030 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5; #05-51 Paya Ubi Industrial Park, 53 Ubi Avenue 1, www.onna.co.id

AS GOOD AS NEW

Ensure your wood floor maintains its natural beauty for a long time!



Even the hardiest wood flooring eventually loses its shine. Over time, people, pets and furniture tend to leave scratches and scuff marks on its surface, marring its natural beauty and making it more prone to stains. This is why the flooring needs to be refurbished, so you can maintain a perfectly polished and presentable surface.

Tradtionally, refurbishing hardwood floors can be inconvenient, as it usually requires the homeowners to temporary move out of their house. In addition, the process of sanding down a wooden floor will generate dust and toxic smells, which are hard to get rid of after the refurbishment. This is where Bona comes in.

The wood floor-care expert has 90 years of experience caring for hardwood floors and developing floor-care solutions. Understanding the importance of floor care, it has started a wood-care service for homeowners who find it difficult to polish their floors on their own.

Bona's Certified Contractors are highly skilled wood-floor specialists, trained to refurbish and recoat your hardwood floors, removing unsightly marks, stains, and signs of wear and tear, thus helping you extend your floor's lifespan.

Using the Bona Dust-free method, the specialists will sand down your floors, leaving no dust, which makes cleaning up much easier. The team will then recoat it with Bona's Greenguard-certified finishes, giving it longer lasting shine and protection.

All products used for this professional refurbishment service are water-based and contain low levels of volatile organic compounds, safe for use around people and pets.

But floor care doesn't stop at professional cleaning – daily care is required, too. Specially developed for wood floors, the Bona Spray Mop comes with a refillable spray cartridge that is linked to a washable microfibre cleaning pad on a rotating head. This controls the amount of liquid used to clean your floor, keeping your wood floors from swelling, warping or turning grey, when in contact with water.

BONA
For more information,
visit www.bona.com.

FINE POSTURE

Don't let the stress from work compromise your well-being.



Sit up straight! By doing so, everything from your appearance to your health – and even your mood! – will improve.

It sounds too good to be true, but by simply straightening your spine and feeling that stretch along your back, you will look poised and feel more alert in the office. Home-grown brand Ergoworks knows the importance of good posture and has developed a range of products that focus on total back-care, postural care and other ergonomic solutions.

The only ergonomic brand endorsed by The Chiropractic Association (Singapore) and the Singapore Physiotherapy Association, rest assured knowing that its products can really make a difference to you and your family's health and well-being.

Creating a holistic environment at home and work starts with the most basic of furniture pieces: your chair and table. This is why Ergoworks focuses on delivering scientifically designed products to help improve your health. This includes ergonomic chairs and desks for adults and kids, as well as spinal-protection backpacks, writing and viewing instruments, laptop stands, keyboards, and other ergonomic accessories. All these products were designed to help you work efficiently and effectively, while offering comfort.

Take the brand's award-winning Duorest chair range, for example. Boasting an original German design, the technologically advanced seat adapts to your body's contours and comes with the patented dual backrest which reduces spinal pressure by 50 per cen compared to conventional chairs!

Ergoworks' products are all designed and built to give you the comfort you deserve. Its range of desks and chairs are also height-adjustable, making work and study comfortable and enjoyable for everyone.

PROMOTION

Get the Duorest Comfort Ergonomic Chair (DR-3600b) at only $499 (U.P. $799) and purchase the latest Healthy Ergo-Study Desk and Chair set from only $699 with attractive perks at the *Home & Decor* Fair!



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HOME & DECOR FAIR 2015

TRANQUIL SANCTUARY

Make your home a safe and secure haven.



Folks with kids living in high-rise apartments lose out on one thing: a proper view, no thanks to ugly metal window grilles for safety. These grilles also provide security for open balconies and terraces.

Singapore-based safety specialist Legate can solve this problem with its signature range of invisible grilles. While window grilles tend to be bulky and unsightly, these ones are slim, sleek and near-invisible to the eye.

The system of high-tension stainless steel cables is embedded with an epoxy-based material (for premium cables) and can be strung across windows, balconies, open-plan terraces and staircase railings. This means you can enjoy an unhindered view, while keeping your children safe.

PROMOTION

Receive up to 20 per cent off Legate invisible grilles at the *Home & Decor* Fair!

Customise the gap between the cables and opt for a built-in alarm system to help keep out intruders, too, while letting in a cool breeze. These industrial-strength cables come with an up to seven-year warranty, are anti-rust, durable and will not slacken over time.

You can also install artificial grass to jazz up your balcony area. This relaxing spot of greenery will make you feel like you're outdoors, with the feel of grass under your feet. It's low-maintenance, too!

Got the view and your flooring covered? Now finish it up with a textured wall, using an affordable, natural-look material. Legate's Multiwall is an innovative product made of polyester resin and fibreglass. Coloured with natural stone powder, it looks and feel like natural stone, and each wall panel is durable, water resistant, economical to install and easy to maintain. Available in many styles and designs, the customisable Multiwall can help you transform a blank wall into an aesthetic masterpiece that complements your carpet of turf and an unobstructed view.



LEGATE

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GREEN, CLEAN AND COOL

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Mitsubishi Heavy Industries is Japan's largest machinery maker with a presence in most key manufacturing sectors, so it comes as no surprise that it has established itself as the foremost producer of air-conditioners in the world. In fact, it was the first manufacturer to invest in, and develop the new CO2 refrigerant technology, and the first to introduce a range of ozone-friendly air-conditioning units.

Constantly innovating and working at a high level of technology, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries wants to bring comfort into our lives by introducing air-conditioners that are reliable, energy-saving, and easy on the pocket.

With intuitive inverter-driven compressors, its wall-mounted air-conditioners use only the minimum amount of required energy, but are still 40 per cent more efficient than standard window units! Achieving four out of four ticks on the National Environment Agency's energy rating label, its wall-mounted units will help you cut down on your electricity bills while keeping you cool.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' air-conditioners are distributed by home-grown brand Wo Kee Hong to over 80 electronic dealers in Singapore, as well as to homeowners, so they are never difficult to find.

Rest assured knowing that service doesn't end with just your purchase. Wo Kee Hong also provides after-sales services and warranties for all its products.

WO KEE HONG GROUP
#08-03 Pacific Tech Centre,
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HOME & DECOR FAIR 2015

DRESS THE WALLS

More than just printed decorative paper, wallpaper can bring a new dimension to your space.

Some homeowners avoid using wallpaper because they fear it might appear too artificial, but the material has since evolved from being just decorative coverings.

With thousands of wallpaper designs, The Wall Story aims to show how versatile wallpaper can be and the different dimensions they can bring to a space.

The basic anatomy of wallpaper consists of paper backing, followed by a decorative layer, which is then finished with a vinyl topcoat. But with new technology, wallpaper designs now go beyond the two-dimensional. You're no longer limited to flat, printed surfaces, as top layers can also be embossed, or flocked, which results in beautiful, velvety textures.

The Wall Story is dedicated to helping homeowners express their creativity through wallpaper, which is why it offers an amazing range of designs. Aside from printed and textured paper, homeowners can now choose designs made with natural materials such as silk and, grass, foil, and even glass beads!





Despite the use of new materials, the quality of wallpaper is never compromised. This affordable decorative option is still an easy way to cover imperfections on your walls and, compared to paint, takes a lot less time to apply.

To ensure that your wallpaper remains durable and long-lasting, The Wall Story has trained a team of expert installers who will make home-decorating easy for you.

Create statement walls, or themed rooms at home with wallpaper. Just a few rolls can transform a space and leave a memorable impression.



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MAKING IT YOUR OWN

Create a warm, personable abode with the right interior design firm.



While your head might be brimming with renovation ideas, the execution of your designs might be hindered by your lack of interior-design knowledge. This is where the professionals come in.

Urban Habitat Design knows the importance of making a new home your own, which is why its team of designers will always walk you through every step of the renovation process. The team may be young, but its experienced designers will help you achieve a concept design that suits your needs before undertaking the project and ensuring that the renovation stays true to your vision.

Take the nautical-themed home pictured here, for example. The family requested that their four-room HDB flat be transformed into a space similar to a beach house. With a family member in the Navy, they wanted to be reminded of the sea. Nautical-themed decorations were purchased and planned for, they just needed Urban Habitat Design's expertise to give the home a coastal appeal.

So, the designers adopted a white, light blue and sandy palette for the living room. The walls were painted a soft sky blue, and the TV console and shoe cabinet behind the built-in dining bench were clad in sandy, driftwood-lookalike laminates. The bench was given light blue cushions to match the walls and a white base to keep the space looking bright and spacious.

Practicality was a priority as the design team added several storage units to the TV console to help the family hide clutter and display their array of nautical knick-knacks.

Urban Habitat Design strives to help you create a visually stunning home imbued with practical sensibilities, offering good design at affordable prices to all Singaporeans.

PROMOTION

Get a complimentary 92cm-tall vanity cabinet with every project worth $30,000, or a 1.8m sliding wardrobe for every project worth $50,000 at the *Home & Decor* Fair!

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FAN-FARE

Ceiling fans are a more affordable solution to beat the heat, but they're also becoming a stylish one.



design FUSE CONCEPT photography WONG WEI LIANG

If you think installing ceiling fans will mar the look of your space, think again! This environmentally friendly invention has evolved in style throughout the years, and now comes in such sleek and contemporary forms, you'll want them as design elements for your home. Nevertheless, there remains a science to picking the right ceiling fan.

FAN FACTS

In warmer climates such as Singapore's, it is important for a room to be both well-ventilated and cool. While air-conditioning units generate cold air, fans keep the air moving. This brings in fresh air which fans efficiently distribute throughout a space, making the room breezier, and getting rid of indoor air pollutants.

Compared to air-conditioners, fans are also major energy-savers, running at only 15 to 150 watts per hour. According to a 2012 study by the Energy Efficient Programme Office, a multi-agency committee led by the National Environment Agency and the Energy Market Authority, they consume only 1.9 per cent of household energy, whereas air-conditioners are chief guzzlers at 36.7 per cent.

"A comfortable temperature to set your air-conditioner at is 24 deg C. To avoid a hefty electricity bill, set the air-conditioner at 26 deg C or 27 deg C, and turn on the ceiling fan. The room will be filled with cool air in no time – and with lower energy consumption," says Eric Tay, founder of fan distributor Acorn.

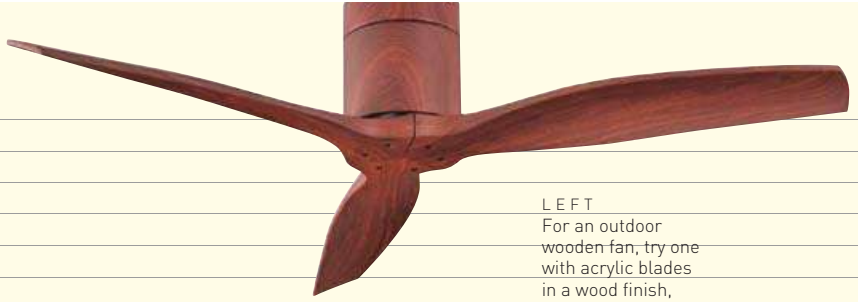
HOW THEY WORK

A larger fan blade moving at a low velocity will provide you with a gentle breeze, while a smaller blade at a high velocity will generate stronger wind delivery. Depending on what you are looking for, other factors to consider include the number, design and material of the blades.

Fans with four to five blades provide better wind delivery. "This is the ideal balance between the amount of air circulated and the level of noise generated," says Gilbert Ng, project manager at Capital Distributors, the agent for KDK fans in Singapore.

TIP

Clean the blades with a damp cloth or the long nozzle attachment of your vacuum cleaner, sliding it across each blade and the motor housing to remove all dust. Do not pull or bend the blades, or oil the already lubricated motors.



LEFT
For an outdoor wooden fan, try one with acrylic blades in a wood finish, such as the Spin Savannah 52", as real wood warps in humidity. Spin fans are available from $888 to $1,138.



As for materials, he recommends blades made of acrylic. "Acrylic blades can be moulded with specified angles, pitching, and sizes in mind. This promises you better wind delivery. As they glide smoothly while spinning, acrylic blades are also much quieter," he says.

If you are planning to install a fan for your al fresco area, acrylic blades require less maintenance and will not rust when exposed to sunlight or rain.

Wood, on the other hand, can warp due to humidity, whether its indoors or outdoors. An excellent combination of acrylic and wood is Savannah by Spin, an acrylic three-blade fan in walnut grain. ▶



ABOVE
The Acorn Futuriste 309 is available in Gun Metal (pictured). Acorn fans are priced from $299 to $999.

MIDDLE
The sleek curves of the limited-edition Acorn Futuriste AC-308 are a plus – both in functionality and style.

RIGHT
Distributed by Big Ass Fans, Haiku fans come in extended mounts, which are great for high ceilings. Haikus are priced from $1,249.

But, there are exceptions. The three-blade Haiku fans – inspired by aeroplane propellers both in design and function – sport a streamlined design that minimises energy consumption and reduces noise. Acorn's two-blade Futuriste AC-309 outperforms even its five-blade models, thanks to the large bent of its blades.

You may have also seen blades that are angular, flat or curved. Jerald Tew, director at fan distributor Crestar, explains that the angle of a blade determines the wind spread. Flat blades typically generate wind within the fan diameter, whereas a higher angled blade covers a wider area.











TOP
Fans with sleep modes, such as the KDK T60AW, save energy and money. KDK fans are priced from $258 to $698.

LEFT, TOP
Suitable for low ceilings, KDK's R60VW features LED lights with three brightness options: high, medium and low.

LEFT, BOTTOM
Some Haiku fans are equipped with a Woosh mode, which simulates a natural breeze.

SMART FANS

Another reason to love ceiling fans is how intuitive they've gotten. KDK's T60AW is armed with a sleep mode; the movement of the fan drops by a speed every hour before turning itself off.

The five-blade fan is also equipped with a thermal sensor, which will detect the ambient temperature and automatically adjust the fan's speed according to your desired temperature.

If you'd like a more natural cooling experience, go for Haiku fans with the Woosh mode. The fan is able to oscillate between high and low speeds to simulate natural breezes even in an urban environment. Look out for the Haiku with Sense Me function – coming to Singapore early next year – which will feature built-in motion sensors and can learn user preferences over time.



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ABOVE
If you have a small space, go for fans with shorter blades, such as those from the Acorn Rapido series.

MEASURE IT WELL

Before buying a fan, double check that it fits your space. Smaller spaces such as bedrooms and kitchens (measuring 100sqf to 160sqf) will typically require fans with blades ranging from 1.1m to 1.4m long.

If your space is rather small, don't choose a large fan that may overwhelm the room. Acorn's 32-inch (81cm) Rapido 236 is a good option if you're looking for something petite; it will fit small balconies and even toilets.

Make sure your ceiling fan is installed in the centre of the room, where it can evenly distribute air. The surrounding items, such as partitions or wardrobes (both when open and closed), should be at least 60cm away from the edge of the fan's blades.

Lastly, to avoid awkward shadows or flickering illumination, the path of the blades should not cross any beams of light. ⬣



ABOVE
The Icol Polycarbonate Series by Crestar is a favourite among modern homes. Crestar fans are priced from $200 to $600.

BELOW
Haiku fans in matrix composites are durable and stylish.

TIP

Install your fans directly onto the concrete ceiling. If you have a false ceiling, reinforcement is needed to secure the fan and prevent it from wobbling. An angled ceiling will also require a fan that can accommodate the position accordingly.
– Sonia Soh of Big Ass Fans



text ELIZA HAMIZAH



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Q&A

YOUR RENO & DECOR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

We answer your renovation and decorating questions with help from industry experts. E-mail questions to maghomedecor@sph.com.sg.



design PROJECT FILE photography WINSTON CHUANG

How do I enjoy an open concept space, but also make provisions for privacy when needed?

Open-concept spaces are double-edged swords. On the one hand, they look good, as they make spaces look larger and brighter. They also facilitate communication between people in different parts of the home. But aside from physically moving to another room, you can hardly enjoy quiet or "me" time in a shared open space.

If you mean having the flexibility of closing off a kitchen space or an adjoining bedroom, a simple solution would be to install folding or pocket doors, which can open up and close off rooms.

When physical partitions are not feasible because of space constraints, the easiest way to enjoy privacy might just be to cocoon yourself within a wing chair. These armchairs have a high back and "ears" on the sides to block out peripheral vision and noise. Some sofas also come with high backs and sides so you can physically cut yourself off from your surroundings while seated.

I want to build my cabinets all the way up to the ceiling, for more storage space. Is there a way to access them more easily?

If your home has more vertical rather than horizontal space, you'd definitely want to utilise its height as much as you can. It's a good idea to build storage units as high as possible, but they're only useful if you can reach them for easy retrieval of items, as well as for cleaning.

The best-looking option is a ladder which slides across your wall of cabinets. Not only does it look great by adding a vintage-industrial feel to your interiors, but it is also convenient to use – you don't have to drag a ladder in and out every time you need it.

Kelly Choong of Project File has designed such ladders for her clients, and she says they are popular with occupants of loft-style studio apartments. "They're usually made of power-coated steel as the material makes it easier for the ladder to slide, unlike wood. For a 2.4m-tall cabinet with ladder, it will cost about $9,000." She says there is no height limitation for ladders – except your own fear of heights!

The storage unit can have a mix of closed and open shelving, with the closed shelving near the ceiling, and the open shelves lower down.

As the ladder has to be slanted to make it easier to climb, some allowance for space has to be made around the unit, too. ▸

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design SPACE EDGE photography MARTIN T

Does marble come in standard tile sizes? If there are defects, such as chips at the corners of the tiles, does that affect its look? And if there are cracks, can the tiles still be used?

Marble is cut in huge boulders at the quarry, and so are available in customised sizes. But for conventional flooring purposes, they also come in standard dimensions of 30cm by 60 cm and 60cm by 60 cm, says Simon Cheong of Hafary.

Marble tiles are usually installed with rectified edges, which means straight edges (this is so the joint lines don't appear so visible), so any chips at the corners or along the edges are noticeable, and will affect the overall look of the floor.

If there are cracks on the tiles, they can still be used after they've been patched with marble glue and powder.

Is there a quick alternative to replacing faded wallpaper, such as painting over it? Also, the wallpaper near my bathroom door area has stains resulting from dampness. Any solutions?

Depending on the colour fastness of wallpaper, they do tend to fade over the years, especially if exposed to sunlight. "If the wallpaper is made of vinyl, and has a smooth surface, you can paint over it. But the effect does not look good," says Edson Khoo, the regional head of the wallcoverings division at Goodrich Global.

A spokesman for paint company Dulux says that wallpaper is not an ideal surface for paint, and should always be removed before painting.

You can of course, go ahead. Just make sure you prepare the surface. Ensure that the wallpaper is clean of dirt and dust, doesn't have rips and tears, or is coming off from the wall; you'd need to repair those first before painting. To prevent wallpaper seams from looking too obvious, sand them, and the entire surface of the wallpaper, with fine sandpaper. The slightly rough surface will also make it easier for the paint to adhere.

Next, paint on an oil-based primer, as the moisture from water-based ones can cause the wallpaper to become unstuck from the wall. After the surface is dry, sand it lightly, and then apply your top coat of oil-based paint. Let it dry, sand it down again, and apply a second coat of paint (preferably a day after the first coat was applied, for best results).

To prevent wallpaper from staining or coming off the wall due to dampness, try not to use it near areas of high humidity, such as bathrooms and kitchens. If it's near your bathroom door, install a ventilator fan within the bathroom to minimise the amount of moisture that escapes from the toilet. ⬣

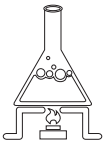


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UNTANGLING TECH

Organise your gadgets efficiently with these practical and stylish accessories.

FOR HOME CHEFS

If you've always wanted a TV in your kitchen, the Belkin kitchen cabinet mount lets you take your tablet into the kitchen, without taking up precious counter space. Follow recipe videos on the screen by placing it on this mount, suspended on your cabinet or shelf. It's easy to install, too: Simply attach the mount with the adjustable clamp – no tools are necessary. It fits any 7- to 10-inch tablet, and you can use it without having to remove your tablet's protective cover.

Belkin kitchen cabinet mount, $69, from http://banleong.com/sg/estore.





ELEGANT SOLUTION

Shoving your jumble of cables and chargers into a drawer or bag will just tangle them up – store them in style using the Cordito cord holder. Made from beautiful handcrafted leather with a snap button closure, it fits three cables and a plug, so you can cart your wires around easily. Use it for USB cords, earbuds, and even slim portable battery chargers.

Cordito cord holder, $59.90, from Naiise.



FULLY CHARGED

Tired of using multiple chargers for your tech devices? Charge up to four devices simultaneously with the light and compact One Adaptr Twist World Plus Macbook world adaptor. Made for universal compatibility, this adaptor attaches to any Apple Macbook power adaptor, allowing you to charge devices through its four USB ports. Its design saves space and fits more securely into wall sockets, ensuring the adaptor doesn't fall out easily.

One Adaptr Twist World Plus Macbook world adaptor, $79, from Ante.



TAGGED AND READY

Whether you have thick or thin cables, the Suck UK Icon cable tie set works for them all. This assorted set of 24 cable ties uses six symbols (stick men, music notes, stars, keys, birds and lightning bolts) to label and categorise your gadgets.

Suck UK Icon cable tie set, $15, from Naiise.

text LISA TWANG

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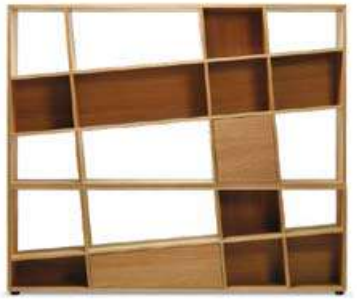




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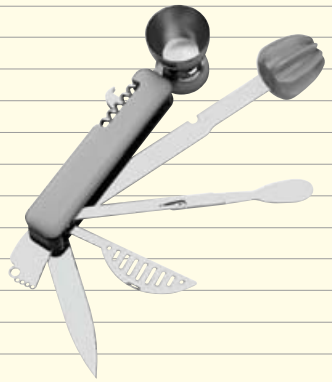












Shake It Up

The Swiss Army knife of cocktail mixing, the Bar10der is a portable 10-in-1 bartending tool that will make it easy to concoct cocktails anywhere! The tool features a muddler, knife, reamer, stirrer, channel knife, corkscrew, jigger, strainer, zester and bottle opener.

The Quench Bar10der ($52.90) is available at Tott, #02-427/437 Suntec City Mall, tel: 6238-1578. Visit www.tottstore.com.



Fine Dining

Stock up on a wide range of beautiful tableware and glassware from Villeroy & Boch, at its new Asian flagship store. The German heritage brand is known for its premium classic, country and contemporary designs. Key collections include the elegant La Classica Contura, exotic Silk Road-inspired Samarkand Mandarin (below), sophisticated floral patterned Mariefleur (left) and contemporary New Wave.

Villeroy & Boch is at #01-74/76 Capitol Piazza, tel: 6384-7309.





Quick and Easy

You won't need electricity to whisk your eggs, cream and pancake batter efficiently, with the Tupperware Speedy Chef. It's five times faster than an electric beater and isn't as loud. Just place the ingredients into its container, cap on the handle, and gently turn the handle to start whisking. For added convenience, the handle has a funnel which allows you to add liquid ingredients without having to remove the top.

The Tupperware Speedy Chef retails for $85 at Tupperware Singapore, #01-00, 85 Defu Lane 10, tel: 6285-3988.

Lunch In Style

Thermos celebrated its 111th anniversary by adding designs to its Shuttle Chef series and food jar range. The sleek Shuttle Chef thermal cookers and Thermos food jars come in bright new colours, but still retain Thermos' quality heat insulation technology. We love how easy it is to take hot food out with these stylish options!

The Thermos Shuttle Chef ($25) and the Thermos food jar ($55) are available at all leading department stores.







FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE

How protected is your home? NTUC Income wants to ensure that every homeowner is sufficiently protected against possible disasters!

Every home comes with some form of insurance. If a property is mortgaged, the homeowner is required to take up fire insurance. However, the cover for such insurance is very basic as the insured is limited to either the outstanding loan amount or the cost of reinstating the building structure.

These basic policies barely scratch the surface of protection that a home truly needs. The possibility of losing thousands of dollars due to a mishap is real, as your personal belongings, home renovation, and even appliances are far from being covered under fire insurance.

NTUC Income wants to change that by educating homeowners about the importance of taking up a separate home insurance policy to protect the renovation and contents of their home.

COVERAGE FOR YOUR HOME

With NTUC Income's Enhanced Home Insurance plan, your home will have the comprehensive protection it needs. The plan not only covers basic structural damage, but also loss or damage to household items, renovation works, and valuables such as antiques, works of art, and jewellery, due to incidents such as burst water pipes or tanks, and home fires.

Accidents at home tend to affect household items and renovation works first, before damaging the building's structure. That's why it is important to understand how the Enhanced Insurance Home plan works as the first line of defence against the loss of valuables at home.

For more information, visit www.income.com.sg/Home-Insurance.

CASE STUDY

***Tan Cheong Meng's daughter returned home one day to discover that a fire had started from their home's praying altar. Though the fire had died, it left them with fire and soot damage in the surrounding area. With the Enhanced Home Insurance plan, Tan was able to recover $10,164 to make up for the loss of items and damage. Had he not taken up the plan, he would not have been able to recover anything.**

Enjoy 15 per cent off premiums, when you sign-up for NTUC Income's three-year Enhanced Home Insurance plan! The first 750 sign-ups will also receive a Shake n Take 3 Blender worth $99. Promotion is valid till Dec 31, 2015. Call 6788-1111 and quote "HND15" to enjoy this promotion. For terms and conditions, visit www.income.com.sg/HND15

*** Names and identifying details have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals. The above case study is based on an actual claim submitted to NTUC Income in 2012.**

TIP

Cleaning your blender is actually pretty easy! After pouring out the contents, fill it with some water and dish soap, put it back on the blender, and process for about 15 seconds. Rinse it out, and you're done!

Things are Heating Up

Turbo introduces its new range of energy-efficient Incanto ovens, with sleek designs to complement any contemporary kitchen. Made in Europe, the TFV604 is bigger than conventional models, with a capacity of 64 litres. This makes it great for entertaining or feeding a crowd, while the TFV607 has seven cooking functions that will please home chefs and bakers!

The Turbo Incanto TFV604 retails at $738, and the TFV607 at $888. Both are available at major electrical stores.









Table Fashions

We love how a chic look can be bought on the cheap with Ikea's designer collaborations. The latest, Sinnerlig, is a collection designed by London-based designer Ilse Crawford and her studio, Studio Ilse. The dining range includes tableware, bottles, and jars in natural tones and organic shapes. The glass jars and bottles, in particular, are handmade, so each is unique. At just $14.90 for the smaller bottle, it's a steal indeed.

The Sinnerlig collection is available this month at Ikea Alexandra and Tampines.



Colour Combo

Don't worry if you can't decide on which colour your Nespresso Pixie Clips machine should be. Each coffee machine comes with two pairs of stylish clip-on side panels, so you can change them according to your mood, or to the style of your space. A range of designs – from pop art, elegant to high-tech – is also available for individual purchase.

The Nespresso Pixie Clips machine retails for $338, and a set of clips from $26. Both are available at all Nespresso boutiques and www.nespresso.com.sg.

text LOUISA CLARE LIM, AMANDA JAYNE LEE, ELIZA HAMIZAH & SHARMAINE LOH

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PART 3 OF A THREE-PART SPECIAL ON FOREIGN PROPERTY

WHAT'S THE SELL?

Buying Malaysian property might be easy, but selling the same property could involve a complicated sales process, with restrictions on buyers.

If you're planning to buy Malaysian property as an investment to sell in the future, make sure you also know all about the procedures to sell it later, as this isn't something developers would put in their glossy sales brochures.

The process is complicated, with several parties involved, and can take up to six months from signing the sale and purchase agreement to the official transfer of the property. We outline the issues you should be aware of.

KNOWING YOUR PROPERTY

First, foreigners are not allowed to buy properties priced below RM1 million (S$364,000) in Malaysia. If the property you are selling is worth less than RM1 million, you must look only to Malaysian buyers.

Second, Malaysia has two types of units – bumiputera units and non-bumiputera units. Bumiputeras are indigenous Malaysians, including Malays. Only bumiputeras can buy reserved bumiputera units at special prices from developers. These units can be resold or transferred only to other bumiputeras.

Bumiputera owners can sell their units to non-bumiputera Malaysians, but they need to get the state authority's consent. Sellers also need to prove that no bumiputera buyers were interested in the property, such as showing evidence of advertisements placed. "The state government, in deciding whether to approve or not, takes into account the racial make-up and present bumiputera ownerships in the area where the property is situated," says Chang Mei Kee, managing partner at law firm Henry Soong and Chang.

INITIAL STEPS AND CHECKS

For a start, sellers should keep track of how long they have held the property. This will determine the Real Property Gains Tax they have to pay under Malaysian laws, which affects the net proceeds of the sale.

With effect from last year, the gains tax rate payable by foreigners disposing of a chargeable asset is 30 per cent of the net profit, if the chargeable asset is sold within five years of its acquisition. Chargeable assets sold more than five years



after acquisition are subject to a much lower gains tax – 5 per cent of the net profit.

GETTING THE SALE PROCESS GOING

If you decide to proceed with the sale, you need to make sure your finances are in order.

Mark Mah, senior negotiator at L and C Properties, says that sellers need to clear all outstanding fees applicable to the property, otherwise there will be a delay in completing the sale.

These include the "quit rent" (cukai tanah), a form of land tax paid annually to the state, and the "assessment tax" (cukai pintu), a local property tax for services provided by the local council. A key part of selling is to set an acceptable price by looking at recent transactions in the area or project.

Sellers should work with a reliable real estate agency to market the property. You need to appoint a registered estate agent. Normally, the agent's commission for completing a sale is 2 to 3 per cent of the final sale price. You have to give your agent some key documents to assist in marketing your property. These include the copy of the title to the property, renovation plans and copies of the quit rent and assessment receipts for the property.

Most prospective buyers would need those details to obtain a valuation from a bank to get financing.

FINDING A BUYER

Know the strengths and weaknesses of your property when you market it. Mark notes that certain factors will appeal to Malaysian buyers, such as the fengshui or the vastu shastra (ancient Indian science of architecture) of the property.

"Bad condo management will also definitely reduce the property price," he adds.

Ricky Lee, executive director of Knight Frank Malaysia's Johor branch, and Herbert Leong, associate director of project marketing with Knight Frank Malaysia, say that township developments have become more attractive. If the township is popular with good amenities, buyers will want to live there, regardless of its surroundings.

Be clear about who your target buyers are. In Malaysia, selling a property to a foreigner is more complicated than selling to a local. All intended purchases of real estate property, except industrial property, by any foreigner require approval from a state authority. The approvals are given at the discretion of the state and are subject to payment of a consent fee or 2 per cent of the sale price, whichever is higher. In Johor, the approval process can take as long as six months from the date of application.

LEGAL FEES

Excluding disbursements, legal fees are standardised by the country's Solicitors Remuneration Order. It is 1 per cent for the first RM150,000 of the sale price, 0.7 per cent for the next RM850,000, 0.6 per cent for the next RM2 million, 0.5 per cent for the next RM2 million and 0.4 per cent for the next RM2.5 million.

So if a seller disposes of his condo unit for RM1.5 million, he pays about RM10,450 in legal fees. For any sale amount above RM7.5 million, the legal fee rate is negotiable but it cannot be more than 0.4 per cent.

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

The seller must provide his lawyer with the same documents that he gave to the estate agent.

He must also supply copies of the latest bank mortgage statement, his identity card and passport. If the seller's passport number stated in the title deed or purchase agreement differs from his present passport number, he has to provide copies of both passports.

BEFORE SIGNING THE SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT (SPA)

The option agreement is usually the first document a potential buyer will sign to make an offer to the seller to buy the property at a certain price.

The buyer will also enclose a part deposit to secure the deal while he sorts out his financing. At this stage, the buyer's lawyer sorts out the SPA's terms with the seller's lawyer. This part deposit – known in Malaysia as an "earnest deposit" – is usually 1 to 2 per cent of the sale price. The seller or his lawyer should ▸

review the terms of the option document carefully. They will be bound by its terms regardless of the seller's subsequent instructions to his lawyer.

Some option agreements state that the deposit should be refunded to the buyer if he cannot obtain financing. If a seller is not agreeable to this, he should raise the issue.

In Malaysia, once the option agreement is signed, sellers generally wait 21 to 30 days for the buyer to execute the SPA and pay the balance of the full 10 per cent deposit.

However, this 10 per cent is negotiable. Some buyers offer to pay the seller a higher deposit upon execution of the SPA, in exchange for a lower sale price or to obtain keys to the property earlier. If the buyer is unable to take these steps, the option usually provides for the failed buyer to forfeit the part deposit to the seller as agreed liquidated damages.

Similarly, if the seller has signed the option but no longer wants to sell to the buyer, he has to return the part deposit and provide an equal additional amount as compensation.

After the signing of the SPA, there are two possible scenarios, depending on whether the buyer is a Malaysian or a foreigner.

SCENARIO 1: Malaysian buyer

The sale and purchase transaction would be completed about three months after the SPA is signed.

If the buyer cannot pay the full 10 per cent deposit within three months, he will usually be given one more month, but he will have to pay late interest charges to the seller.

If the seller's property is subject to a charge or mortgage payment during this time, the seller's lawyer will obtain the buyer's financing details.

This is because the buyer's bank has to disburse part of the loan sum to the seller's bank. Unless the buyer pays in cash, the seller's lawyer will also get the redemption statement to redeem the property from the seller's bank.

SCENARIO 2: Foreign buyer

A conditional SPA will be signed, as it depends on whether the state authority approves of the transaction.

The agreed deposit may be released to the seller, but is often kept by an impartial "stakeholder" who could be either the buyer's or the seller's lawyer. The buyer has about three to six months to apply for the state authority's consent for the purchase.

If consent is denied, the buyer can appeal, but he has to wait for another three to six months for the result. If the appeal is rejected, the transaction is aborted and the stakeholder solicitors will return the deposit to the buyer. The seller then looks for a new buyer.

If approval is granted, the stakeholder solicitors will release the deposit to the seller as the buyer proceeds to secure his financing.

The sale transaction should conclude three to four months after the approval is granted. The loan funds used to seal the deal are disbursed in a similar way to deals involving Malaysian buyers.

COMPLETING THE TRANSACTION: LOAN DISBURSEMENT

The buyer's bank will disburse the loan monies in two stages. The first stage, called the "redemption amount", goes towards redeeming the property from the seller's bank, assuming the seller still owes money on the property.

The second stage is after the seller's bank releases to the buyer's lawyer all security documents, such as the original title or original principal purchase agreement, depending on whether the titles are available at the point of sale. The buyer's lawyer can then register the title in the buyer's name and the buyer's bank can create the charge or mortgage over the property. If the seller's property has no outstanding loans at the point of sale, then disbursement of the buyer's loan involves only one stage.

However, the seller has to hand over the security documents to his lawyer, to transfer the property to the buyer and create the charge or mortgage by the buyer's bank over the property. This transfer process must occur before the seller receives any money from the buyer's bank.

After the balance of the sales monies has been provided to the seller's lawyer, the seller has to disconnect and pay the bills for all utility connections servicing the property.

The seller must then present proof of payment of these bills, along with keys to the property.

Assessment rates and quit rent will be divided between seller and buyer at the date of delivery of vacant possession or legal possession. As both taxes are paid once or twice a year, the seller would have paid the rates for the calendar year.

So after taking legal possession, the buyer will reimburse what the seller has paid for the part of the year that the property belongs to the buyer. ●

***This article first appeared in* The Sunday Times.**

text PHYLLIS HO & STEPHANIE HENG photo ADRIN SHAMSUDIN/123RF.COM

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Make sure your home is a dengue-free zone.

The first step in preventing pesky mosquitoes from multiplying is knowing their potential breeding spots. Every year, the National Environment Agency (NEA) identifies the top five breeding habitats, and the latest ones are:

- Domestic containers, such as pails, buckets, bowls or any water containers that accumulate stagnant water.
- Flower pot plates or trays.
- Ornamental containers (vases).
- Hardened soil and axils of potted plants.
- Toilet bowls or cisterns.

Regularly dispose of dirty or stagnant water in all exposed containers. Make it a habit to scrub flower pot trays and the insides of vases to remove mosquito eggs. Wash the roots and leaves of plants in vases, and change the water every other day. Loosen soil in potted pots as often as possible to prevent stagnant water from accumulating.

Use natural repellents

Citronella is the top pick for plants that can repel mosquitoes. Citronella oil is, in fact, used in most common mosquito repellents. The plant is easy to grow, and you can simply cut the leaves from time to time, and crush them to release their strong aroma.

Other plants that have mosquito-repellent qualities are catnip, lavender, lemon balm or horsemint, and basil. They all have certain smells that we find pleasant, but are repulsive to mozzies. Place these fragrant herbs on your porch or balcony, or near the front door.

Mosquito-proof your home

Before going on a vacation, prevent your home from becoming a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Cover all toilet bowls and use masking tape to seal off all gully and floor traps. Turn over all water containers. Clear off blockages in your roof gutters and add BTI pesticide. Add sand granular insecticide to places where stagnant water cannot be removed, such as flower pots and vases. ●

TIP

Be informed and get important updates regarding the fight against dengue through NEA's website at www.dengue.gov.sg, or its Facebook page, www.fb.com/Stop.Dengue.Now.

text VERLAINE RAMOS-MARQUEZ photo ZOOMTEAM/123RF.COM

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Bold and Beautiful

Able to withstand stains and scratches, Silestone by Cosentino is a quartz surface used for backsplashes or walls in kitchens, bathrooms and even laboratories. Silestone is now available in Acqua Fraccaroli, a newly introduced turquoise colour developed with Brazilian interior design architect Brunete Fraccaroli. The blue-green colour represents happiness, and brings a fresh look and vibrancy to any space.

Silestone by Cosentino is available at Cosentino City Singapore, 34/35 Duxton Road, tel: 6713-9543.



A Clean Sweep

Clean up your home with the Scotch Brite Easy Sweeper mop set. The mop uses dry or wet disposable wipes with woven electrostatic weaves that attract and hold dust, hair, and dirt inside its fibres. The Easy Sweeper has a larger mop plate than other mops in the market, and an extendable rod that will help you clean more efficiently and get to those hard-to-reach areas.

The Scotch-Brite Easy Sweeper retails at $18.95 and is available at NTUC Fairprice, Giant, Cold Storage and other retailers.



Happy Cooking

The latest addition to Cornell's Hello Kitty range of appliances is a rice cooker, all dressed up in the character's signature pink and red colours, and decorated with a picture of the famous feline. The rice cooker is great for small families or singles, with its capacity of 0.4 litres. It also comes with a removable non-stick pot for easy cleaning, and even a kitty stencil, so you can decorate your bowl of rice with Hello Kitty's face.

The Cornell Hello Kitty rice cooker retails for $49.90, from all major electrical stores.



All-American

With scents inspired by the brand's home country, Method's newest collection, Americana, consists of hand and body washes made from natural ingredients such as aloe vera and vitamin E. The eco-friendly label is not only vegan and cruelty-free, but its wash products are biodegradable, too. Choose from three scents – Coastal Redwood, Southern Peach and Desert Lily – all packaged in recyclable bottles.

The limited-edition Americana collection by Method starts from $5.95 for a gel handwash, and retails at Isetan, Meidi-Ya and Cold Storage (for selected products only).

text SHARMAINE LOH

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2. Take a selfie with the locker.
3. Post on Instagram with the hashtag **#mhlocker** and tell us which are your three favourite items.
4. The top three posts with the most number of likes win! An additional prize will also be given each week.

For more information about the *Men's Health* locker, check out www.menshealth.com/mhlocker

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Men's Health

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practice.sg

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Tel: 6365-9138
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www.acaciafabrics.com

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Tel: 6635-6147
www.acorn
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www.citygas.com.sg

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The multipurpose Kuche Soup Maker automatically blends, stirs, and cooks, allowing you to whip up creamy soups and soya milk within 15 to 20 minutes.



ELECTROLUX ERGORAPIDO 3RD GENERATION CORDLESS STICK VACUUM IN LOVE RED WORTH $209

Enjoy the freedom of cordless cleaning with this self-standing stick vacuum that comes with a double layer filter, a 0.5-litre dust container and cordless cleaning that lasts up to 20 minutes. The design of the nozzle joint and large wheels in the back provide 180-degree manoeuvrability, especially on thicker carpets.



ELECTROLUX OVEN TOASTER WORTH $129

This multifunctional table-top mini oven is a superb and convenient toaster to bake, heat up, cook and grill all your favourite dishes. It comes with a removable crumb tray and variable cooking functions, with temperatures ranging from 90 to 230 deg C, zero to 60 minute-long timers and a large capacity of 21 litres.



ELECTROLUX EASYPOUR 1.5L STAINLESS STEEL WATER KETTLE WORTH $99

The clever design of this triangular kettle makes it easy to open the lid with just one hand. Stay safe with the stainless steel concealed heating element, while the 360-degree cordless swivel base enables easy lifting and placing.



ELECTROLUX STAND MIXER WITH ROTATING 2.5L PLASTIC BOWL, WHISKS AND HOOKS WORTH $69

Powerful, simple and efficient, the Electrolux stand mixer is the perfect kitchen assistant. Experience five turbo speed controls, and enjoy ease of use thanks to the detachable hand mixer and slim wire whisks.

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ELECTROLUX EASYLINE COFFEE MAKER WORTH $55

Satisfy your morning caffeine craving with this classic coffee maker that serves up to 15 cups. It includes a safety auto-off function after 120 minutes, an anti-drip system for hassle-free operations, a removable filter basket and a non-stick heating plate for easy cleaning.



ELECTROLUX AZREZZA STEAM IRON WORTH $45

This is a dynamic and modern iron with a spray function, a rubber handle for a safer grip and a 2m-long cord that can swivel 360 degrees. The clearly marked dial makes it easy to choose the right temperature to use on all types of fabrics, and the iron's self-clean function removes lime residues from the stainless steel soleplate's holes.



SOFZSLEEP PREMIUM LATEX PILLOW WORTH $128

Boasting 100 per cent premium quality latex with a luxurious bamboo cover from Belgium, this pillow is certified non-toxic, dust mite-resistant and can maintain its shape for many years. Choose from three models – Classic, Design and Ergolatex.



CHABATREE BLANCHE THREE-PIECE GLASS JARS WORTH $107

Chabatree products are environmentally sustainable, using wood sourced from controlled plantations. No chemicals are used during the treating and finishing processes, too. These jars are handmade with high-quality utility glass and come with a beechwood lid. All Chabatree products are sponsored by Hommage Lifestyle.



CHABATREE IVORY THREE-PIECE DEEP STORAGE CONTAINERS WORTH OVER $100

Handmade in Thailand and topped with a stackable wooden lid, these containers are suitable for food storage. Durable, sturdy and highly heat-resistant, you can place them (without the wooden lid) on the stove or use them in the oven.



CHABATREE FOUR-PIECE KITCHEN ACCESSORY SET WORTH OVER $100

The set includes salad servers, a hand-towel stand, a slotted turner and a ladle. Made of plantation teak wood and finished with natural oil, every piece is free of chemicals, and meticulously shaped and smooth. Clean them with a damp cloth or mild soap, and rub occasionally with food-grade oil to keep the wood gorgeous.



CHABATREE MAME POLKA DOTS SET WORTH OVER $130

The set includes two bowls, two plates and two mugs, all made of quality ceramic and decorated with hand-painted designs.



CHABATREE CYNOSURE FOUR-PIECE GLASS JARS WORTH OVER $82

These handmade jars come with non-toxic acacia wood lids and airtight food-grade silicone seals, making them suitable for storing flour, grains, sugar and more.

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BONA WOOD FLOOR CLEANING KIT AND THREE CLEANING CLOTHS WORTH $60

Spray and wipe your floors with this starter kit, which helps you remove stains, dirt and grime from your wood flooring effectively. The kit includes a four-piece mop with a handle, a washable cleaning pad and a 1-litre spray bottle.



BONA STONE, TILE AND LAMINATE CLEANING KIT AND THREE CLEANING CLOTHS WORTH $60

Refresh your laminate, vinyl and tile floors with a mop that comes with a swivel mop head and a telescopic handle. The cleaning pad picks up moisture and dirt, and is machine-washable and reusable up to 300 times, leaving floors clean with no dull scratches.



THE COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF KALDI COFFEE MACHINE WORTH $339

With smooth curves and gleaming metallics, the Kaldi coffee machine's streamlined look matches its ease of use. Its innovative one-touch technology delivers perfection in every cup and the automatic proportioning ensures consistency in taste and aroma.



THE COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF AMERICANO MACHINE WORTH $239

The multitasking Americano coffee machine delivers the perfect cup of espresso, coffee or tea, and features six cup sizes. Its disposal system holds up to 10 capsules.

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Designed by Nobuo Mori, Sala is Italian for an entrance hall, living room, or a salon. These Scandinavian-style pieces are made of oak with knars – knots that develop on tree trunks or roots. The wood used for this series feature varying knars, grains and colours.



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SMEG 50'S RETRO STYLE FAB5 MINI FRIDGE IN RED WORTH $1,580

This silent-operating fridge is packed with an adjustable thermostat, a bottle holder, a snack compartment in the door, an ice cube tray and two shelves that are interchangeable over five heights. It also comes with internal LED lighting, easy-to-clean surfaces, a right-hand or left-hand hinged door with a chrome handle, and an internal capacity of 40 litres.



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OFFER Enjoy up to 40 per cent off when you purchase a Bona spray mop and a 4-litre refill at $70 (U.P. $112.70), and a Bona cleaning kit at $30 (U.P. $50), at the Fair.



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WIN YOUR CHOICE OF SANCAL FURNITURE FROM DREAM WORTH $15,000!



COLOUR BURST

There's always a youthful air about the furniture pieces from Spanish brand Sancal. The brand sets themselves apart with collections that are always delightfully a little off-centre – either with refreshing forms, fun colours, or smart details. However, the pieces still carry a practical and timeless quality.

Sancal has worked with an international roster of designers, such as Karim Rashid, Toyo Ito and Sebastian Herkner, for its past collections. This year, it launched The Majestic Collection, which was inspired by decorative styles from other periods. This has resulted in elegant contemporary pieces, which are stylish, refined in shape and rich in texture. The winner of this contest gets to choose their favourite Sancal pieces worth $15,000 – besides the new range, he or she can select from Sancal's existing collections too!





HOW TO WIN

1. Snap a photo of the magazine, showing this promotion page, in your home.
 (Choose your favourite accessories as props!)
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 - Facebook, tagged with **@homeanddecor.singapore** and **@dreamintsg**
 - Instagram, tagged with **@homeanddecor_sg** and **@dreamintsg**
3. Submit the screenshot of your post to **www.tinyurl.com/sancal**.

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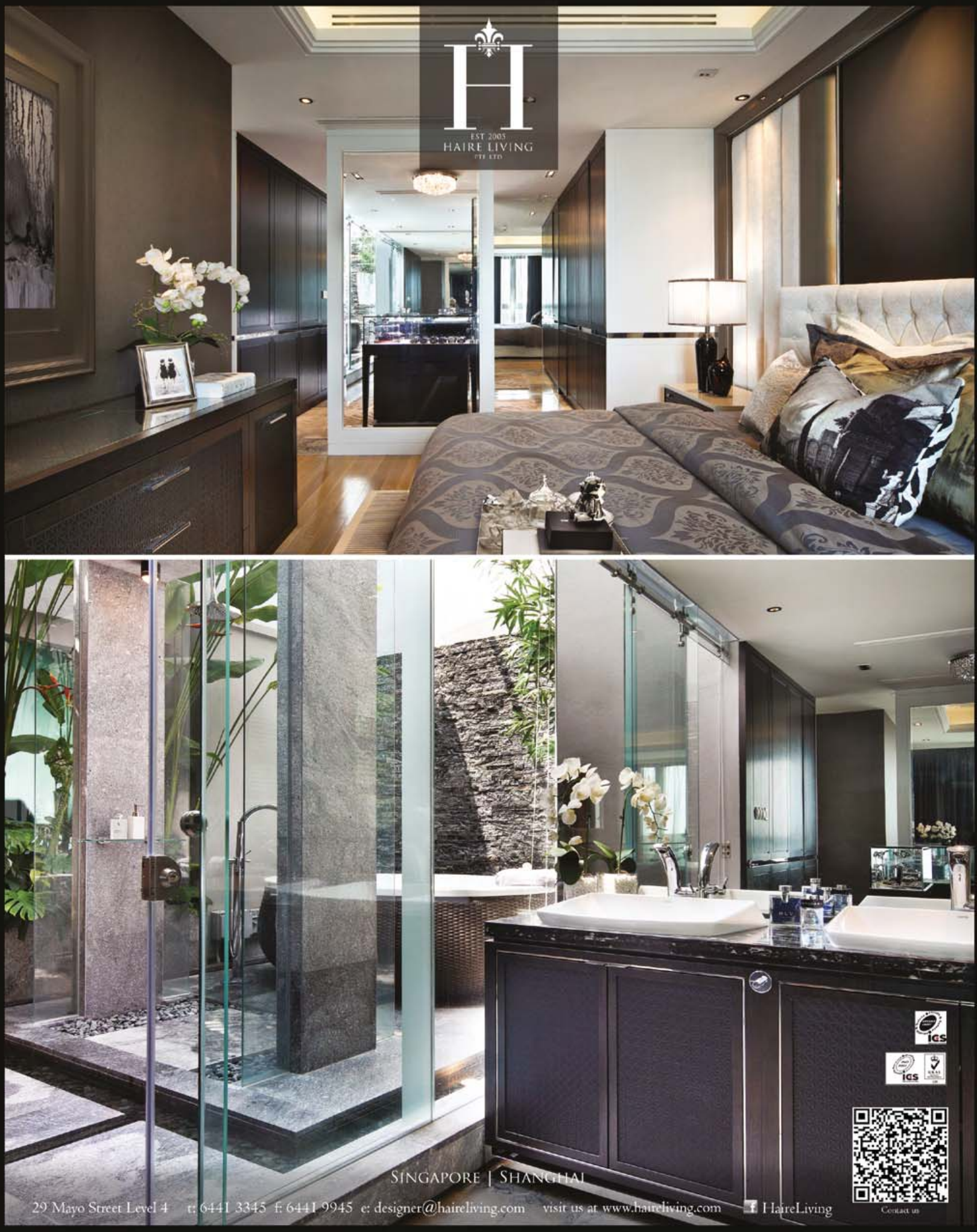


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